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Contents

JOHN GORMAN BARR: FORGOTTEN ALABAMA HUMORIST W. STANLEY HOOLE	83
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE ALABAMA BLACK BELT EDGAR LEGARE PENNINGTON	117
NOTES AND DOCUMENTS	127
BOOK REVIEWS	150
NEWS AND NOTES	157

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John Gorman Barr: Forgotten Alabama Humorist

By W. STANLEY HOOLE

Devotees of humor of the Old Southwest have long paid homage to two Alabamians, Johnson Jones Hooper (1815-1862) and Joseph Glover Baldwin (1815-1864), both of whom are generally regarded as foremost in the field of antebellum frontier story-telling.¹ Indeed, Hooper's *Some Adventures of Captain Simon Suggs, Late of the Tallapoosa Volunteers*, eleven editions of which appeared between 1845 and 1856,² and Baldwin's *The Flush Times of Alabama and Mississippi* (1853), printed at least four times within four years,³ have earned places of high honor among the brilliant galaxy of American humorous writings which at last came to full fruition in the masterpieces of Mark Twain.⁴ But until now, almost a century after his tragic and untimely death, a third early Alabama humorist, John Gorman Barr, has been summarily overlooked by literary historians.⁵ A contemporary of Hooper and Baldwin, between 1855 and 1857 and un-

¹ Franklin J. Meine (ed.), *Tall Tales of the Southwest* (New York, 1937), pp. xxii-xxiii and *passim*; Walter Blair, *Native American Humor, 1800-1900* (New York, 1937), pp. 86-89, 308-325, and *Horse Sense in American Humor* (Chicago, 1942), pp. 102-107.

² A full-length biography by this writer, entitled *Alias Simon Suggs: The Life and Times of Johnson Jones Hooper*, is scheduled for publication by the University of Alabama Press early in 1951. See *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1928-1937), IX, 202 (hereinafter cited as *DAB*).

³ *Ibid.*, I, 538-539; Samuel B. Stewart, "Joseph Glover Baldwin" (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, 1941).

⁴ For a detailed account of the influence of the humor of the Old Southwest (especially that of Hooper) on Mark Twain, see Bernard DeVoto, *Mark Twain's America* (Boston, 1935), pp. 240-268, 312, 338.

⁵ See Thomas M. Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography* (Chicago, 1921), III, 103-104, and Thomas W. Palmer (ed.), *A Register of the Officers and Students of the University of Alabama, 1831-1901* (Tuscaloosa, 1901), p. 64.

der the pseudonym "Omega," Barr contributed many "rich, racy, sterling, and unsurpassed" yarns to the internationally-known *Spirit of the Times* and *Porter's Spirit of the Times*, the leading journals of their type in America.⁶ His numerous comic tales were "most highly prized for the richest humor and wit and . . . received the loftiest ecomiums of the best critics."⁷ And Hooper, whose name was (and is) synonymous with the choicest in native American humor of his day, described Barr's stories as among the richest ever published.⁸

The story of Barr's life itself, like his intriguing tall tales, borders on the incredible. He lived but thirty-four years, from November 22, 1823 until May 18, 1858, yet in that brief time he was printer, scholar, editor, lawyer, college professor, soldier, district attorney, orator, politician, author, and ambassador. At twelve he was an orphan in an Indian-infested frontier village hundreds of miles from his birthplace, at nineteen he had earned two university degrees and a Phi Beta Kappa key, at twenty-four he was a captain in the United States Army in Mexico, at thirty-three he was a nominee for the national Congress, and the next year personally selected by President James Buchanan as consul of the United States at Melbourne, Australia. Shortly after, on his way to his new post and 3000 miles from home he was buried with full consular honors in the Indian Ocean.

Barr was born at Milton, Caswell County, North Carolina, the son of Thomas and Mary Jane Gorman Barr, both of whom had shortly before immigrated to America from Scotland. In 1826, when young Barr was but three years old, his father died and his mother as best she could earned the living

⁶ See Frank L. Mott, *A History of American Magazines, 1741-1850* (New York, 1930), p. 480; Meine, *op. cit.*, pp. xxvii-xxviii; and Francis Brinley, *Life of William T. Porter* (New York, 1860), *passim*.

⁷ *Spirit of the Times, A Chronicle of the Turf, Agriculture, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858), quoted from the *Tuscaloosa Observer*, September 9, 1858. The former is hereinafter cited as *Spirit*.

⁸ *Ibid.*, XXV, 486 (November 24, 1855), quoted from the *Montgomery Daily Mail*, of which Hooper was editor.

for her son and a younger daughter, Martha Margarette. For a few years the family resided in Raleigh, but most probably for reasons economic in 1835 Mrs. Barr and her children moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where the boy immediately went to work as a printer's apprentice. The long trip westward evidently proved too strenuous for Mrs. Barr, however, for in early 1836 (or late 1835) she died, leaving John and Martha, aged twelve and ten (?), without means of support.⁹ A prominent Tuscaloosa merchant, David [Daniel ?] M. Boyd,¹⁰ admiring the unfortunate boy's ability and determination, adopted him (and perhaps his sister) and on October 20, 1838, when Barr was less than fifteen, entered him as a special "full-course" scholarship student (from Tuscaloosa County) in the newly-established University of Alabama.¹¹

Barr's scholastic record in the University, then under the distinguished leadership of President Basil Manly,¹² was little short of phenomenal. At the end of his freshman year, on June 24, 1839, Barr ranked at the top of his class with 346

⁹ This personal data is contained in a statement prepared (1903) by Martha Margarette Barr Gooch of Little Rock, Arkansas for the Barr File (in the Alabama State Department of Archives and History, Montgomery). According to Mrs. Gooch, Mary Jane Gorman married Thomas Barr "in the face of parental opposition on account of her youth," was disinherited and thus deprived of "her father's handsome estate" which ultimately "went to the Crown of Great Britain." John Gorman Barr never married, but the Gooches had one son, Albert Gorman (who in 1903 lived in New Orleans), and two daughters, Mattie and Mamie. See also, L. H. Maxwell to Thomas M. Owen, Tuscaloosa, June 20, 1903 (in Barr File).

¹⁰ *Flag of the Union* (Tuscaloosa), January 19, 1842. Willis Brewer, *Alabama: Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men from 1540 to 1872* (Montgomery, 1872), p. 565; William Garrett, *Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama, for Thirty Years* (Atlanta, 1872), pp. 708-709; and *Spirit*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858) mention not only Boyd's kindnesses toward the orphan Barr but also his affluence as a businessman. Garrett lists Boyd's name as Daniel, but he is called David in the other references.

¹¹ Basil Manly Letter-Book, 1834-1846 (MS vol. in University of Alabama Library), pp. 131-133 (October, 1839). President Manly wrote: "Three students have been admitted, under the regulation of the Board which remits tuition & other college fees to one individual from each county under certain circumstances . . ."

¹² Manly was president of the University of Alabama, 1837-1855, and a distinguished Baptist clergyman. For details of his accomplishments see *DAB*, XII, 237-238; Thomas M. Owen, "Dr. Basil Manly, the Founder of the Alabama Historical Society," *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society, 1899-1903* (Montgomery, 1904), IV, 125-140.

out of a possible 350 units.¹³ In 1839 he was secretary of the Philomathic Society and on July 10, 1840 he was chosen by the faculty to deliver an address at the "Junior Exhibition" on the subject of "The Inquisition,"¹⁴ and upon the completion of his senior year, he and a classmate, Edward B. King, were tied with scholastic averages of .99 for 1841 and 1.00 for the entire course, 1838-1841. The faculty voted to "divide honors between them; that Barr deliver the Valedictory orations; King the Latin Salutatory" at the eleventh annual commencement of the University, December 15, 1841.¹⁵

Earning the Bachelor of Arts degree seems, however, to have but stimulated Barr to further formal education, for early in 1842 he qualified as a "Resident Graduate" of the University and during the year "pursued professional studies" which earned him the degree of Master of Arts in the Class of 1842. On December 13 he delivered the special "Resident Graduate Oration" entitled "Science and Nature, Handmaids of Revealed Truth,"¹⁶ sharing honors of the occasion with the distinguished South Carolina novelist, William Gilmore Simms, who had journeyed from Charleston to address the Ero-sophic Literary Society, to accept an LL.D. degree, and otherwise to be honored by the University and a coterie of state officials including Governor Benjamin Fitzpatrick.¹⁷

¹³ Basil Manly Letter-Book, 1834-1846, p. 146 (June 24, 1839). There were nine students in the class and the lowest number of units earned was 243. The next to Barr earned 338.

¹⁴ *Flag of the Union*, October 16, 1839; Basil Manly Letter-Books, 1834-1846, pp. 185-187 (July 10, 1840). Manly added: "The audience was not large, owing to the cloudy state of the weather . . . The speakers did pretty well . . . Themes rather hackneyed."

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 231-253 (November-December, 1841); *Tuscaloosa Independent Monitor*, December 15, 1841. The title of Barr's valedictory was not recorded, nor was the title of King's salutatory. Barr's second address was entitled "Popular Superstitions." See also Ordinances and Resolutions of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama . . . 1822-1841 (MS vol. in the Treasurer's office, University of Alabama), p. 290 (December 14, 1841).

¹⁶ Manly Letter-Book, 1834-1846, pp. 273-277 (December, 1842). See also Minutes of the Proceedings of the Faculty of the University of Alabama . . . 1841-1854 (MS vol. in University of Alabama Library), p. 19 (October 19, 1842).

¹⁷ *Independent Monitor*, December 14, 16, 21, 28, 1842; Record of Ordinances &

Immediately after receiving his second degree, the twenty-year-old Barr, encouraged by Professor Frederick A. P. Barnard,¹⁸ head of the mathematics department, accepted a tutorship at the University with the understanding that he would be nominated for the position of librarian the next year. However, when the faculty election was held on December 22, 1843, Barr was defeated by a very narrow margin and under most peculiar circumstances,¹⁹ a defeat, incidentally, which brought clearly into the light of day the

Resolutions Passed by the Trustees of the University of Alabama, Commencing with the Annual Session of 1842 (MS vol. in the Treasurer's office, University of Alabama), p. 2 (December 13, 1842). See also William Gilmore Simms, *The Social Principle: The True Source of National Permanence. An Oration Delivered Before the Erosophic Society of the University of Alabama, at its Twelfth Anniversary, December 13, 1842* (Tuscaloosa, 1843), pp. 1-56.

¹⁸ See *DAB*, I, 619-621. Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard (1809-1889) was one of the most distinguished professors ever to serve the University of Alabama. He was on the faculty from 1837-1854, first as professor of mathematics and natural history and later (1848-1854) as professor of chemistry and natural history. In 1854 he was appointed professor of mathematics in the University of Mississippi. Two years later he became president of that institution and from 1858-1861 served as its chancellor. In 1864 he was elected president of Columbia College [University], New York City, a position he held until his death.

¹⁹ Minutes of the Proceedings of the Faculty . . . 1841-1854, pp. 57-63 (December 22, 1843-January 12, 1844); Record of Ordinances & Resolutions Passed by the Trustees . . . 1842-1855, p. 17 (December 25, 1844); Basil Manly Diary, 1843-1848 (MS vol. in the University of Alabama Library), pp. 13-21 (January ?, 1844); and Manly Letter-Book, 1834-1846, pp. 309-310 (January 1, 1844). Briefly, the unfortunate affair was as follows: Barnard, as promised, nominated Barr for librarian, and was supported by two professors. The incumbent librarian, Professor R. T. Brumby, was also nominated and also received three votes—but one of them was that of a tutor (who was not entitled to a vote, Barnard maintained) and another that of President Manly, himself (who, Barnard claimed, should have voted only in case of a tie and certainly not *once* as a member of the faculty "to create a tie [and a second time] to decide the tie by casting his vote that way"). Manly declared that he had no objection whatever to Barr, but that he saw no good reason to oust Brumby and besides that, there could be no election at all without the approval of the president of the University. Barnard and his colleagues protested bitterly, drew up a lengthy answer and thus delayed an appointment. However, at the next meeting of the faculty President Manly sprung a surprise by nominating A. W. Richardson and, of course, Barnard re-nominated Barr. Again, the vote was tied, three for Richardson (including Manly's—which was cast as a member of the faculty) and three for Barr. Whereupon, President Manly voted again—this time as president—thus breaking the tie and officially declaring Richardson librarian for 1844. Professor Barr and his supporters were graciously granted "permission to enter their protest upon the Minutes."

mounting antagonism that existed between President Basil Manly and Secretary of the Faculty Barnard.²⁰

Although curiously deprived of the librarianship, Barr remained on the University staff as tutor of mathematics throughout 1844 and 1845, assuming his share of classroom work, private coaching, proctoring and otherwise attempting to maintain discipline in the rowdy frontier institution.²¹ Nor did he escape the censure of President Manly, who in the summer of 1845 twice recorded in his diary that Barr and other officers were known to have been participants in "drunken frolics" at the homes of Mr. [Harvey W. ?] Ellison and Professor Barnard.²² Nevertheless, Barr was apparently highly regarded by the college community, for in 1845 he was elected president of the University Alumni Society, chosen as

²⁰ Time and time again throughout the 1840's and 1850's Professor Barnard and President Manly clashed over professional matters and frequently the latter entered vitriolic comments about his colleague in his diaries or letter-books. Principally did these protests concern Barnard's absence from classes, his apparent disregard of institutional policies, including his attitudes toward the establishment of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, and his "debauching and drunkenness." Such entries as "I have heard of Barnard's being drunk at several parties in the course of the past Spring" and "Barnard was very drunk at a party at Judge Peter Martin's about the latter part of September" (Basil Manly Letter-Book, 1834-1846, p. 228, May 20, 1841; Basil Manly Diary, 1843-1848, pp. 51, 58, July 11, September ?, 1845) were illustrative. See also Basil Manly Diary, 1848-1858, pp. 99, 115-117, 126, 141, 193, 276 and *passim* (1850-1855). One suspects that Manly greatly admired Barnard's learning and ability, however. When Barnard resigned in 1854, Manly wrote (*ibid.*, p. 276, September 30, 1854), "One great incubus thrown off—Barnard is gone, he has accepted the place of Prof. of Math. in the Univ. of Miss.—He has genius & extensive acquirements, but his physical & moral defects disqualify him from being a useful or reliable officer."

²¹ See Minutes of the Proceedings of the Faculty . . . 1841-1854, pp. 76, 87, 103 (October 5, 1844, February 21, December 12, 1845); Basil Manly Letter-Book, 1834-1846, p. 354 (April 15, 1845); Basil Manly Diary, 1843-1848, pp. 37-45, 49, 50, 52 (February 20 ?, May 30, June 4, July 14, 1845).

²² *Ibid.*, p. 46 (March 10, 1845). "It appears that on Sunday Mar. 2," Manly wrote, "four of our officers were spending the day at Ellison's—viz—Barnard, Barr, Somerville, & Richardson, Librarian—and that Somerville got beastly drunk. It does not appear that the others were so." *Ibid.*, p. 51 (July 15, 1845), he added: "Frid. July 11 Barnard, with Barr, Blevins & Walker, spent the Governor's fast Day, in a drunken frolic in Barnard's house. They got so drunk by dinner time that they could not eat; they slept till Sundown . . ." See James B. Sellers, "Student Life at the University of Alabama Before 1860," *Alabama Review*, II, 269-293 (October, 1949).

the "next [1846] Anniversary Orator," and appointed one of five men to petition the Board of Trustees "to establish a Law Professorship at the University of Alabama."²³

Barr's appointment to the committee seeking a professorship of law was not without significance, for he had been reading law in the office of Harvey W. Ellis during most of his spare time since graduation.²⁴ And on February 11, 1846 the following advertisement appeared for the first time in the *Tuscaloosa Independent Monitor*:

John G. Barr,

Attorney and Counsellor at Law.

Will practice in all the Courts holden in this City, and in the Courts of Pickens, Fayette, Shelby and Jefferson counties. Office No. 9, Washington Hall, under United States' Court Room.

Evidently, Barr's pursuit of the law was successful (the above notice appeared regularly until April 13, 1847), for in less than four months he was appointed "attorney of the Middle District of Alabama of the District Court of the United States."²⁵ Meanwhile, he became a writer for (but most probably not editor of) the weekly *Tuscaloosa Observer*, and in the summer of 1847 was an unsuccessful candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives.²⁶ During this while he had no official connection with the University of Alabama, although early in 1847 he did sign, actively circulate and present to the Governor of Alabama and the Executive Com-

²³ *Independent Monitor*, January 7, 1846.

²⁴ Brewer, *op. cit.*, pp. 556, 565. Ellis was a distinguished West Alabama lawyer who four times represented Tuscaloosa County in the state legislature.

²⁵ *Independent Monitor*, June 17, 1846.

²⁶ Regrettably, only two issues (April 16, 1847; February 14, 1855) of the *Tuscaloosa Observer* of this period have been located, but an item in the *Independent Monitor*, September 2, 1847, states that "'John Barr,' as everybody calls him, is a knight of the quill, whose prowess has been hitherto confined to the columns of the *Observer* . . . [He] was an aspirant [in the last election] to the House of Representatives." He made a "strong fight," the article continues, but was beaten.

mittee of the Board of Trustees a petition in behalf of Professor Frederick Thomas who, Barr and forty-odd other petitioners believed, was "being prejudiced on mere rumor" and unfairly forced by President Manly and the faculty to resign his position as an instructor of English.²⁷

By mid-1847, however, the War with Mexico was attracting great attention throughout the state. As early as the previous summer Alabama's Governor Joshua L. Martin had issued in Tuscaloosa, which was the capital of the state, a call for volunteers for the "Army of Occupation in Texas,"²⁸ and students of the University of Alabama had petitioned the faculty to permit them to form a military company. When they were refused, a number had joined a Tuscaloosa "Volunteer Military Company"—but they were severely reprimanded, "such a proceeding being contrary to the laws of the college." However, by July the University officials had so relinquished their authority as to allow the Tuscaloosa Riflemen, Captain McCrohan commanding, to "join in the procession on the 24th at the Junior Exhibition."²⁹ The non-

²⁷ Basil Manly Diary, 1843-1848, pp. 118-146 (January 29-March 23, 1847); Basil Manly Letter-Book, 1847-1857, p. 5 (February, 1847). The Thomas affair is one of the most intriguing episodes recorded in the Manly diaries. The professor, employed in late 1846, was accused of being "drunk all the way [on board a boat from Montgomery] to Mobile, & that he had taken a girl (negro) into his state room, in the day-time, which negro her owner had taken away from him." Upon his arrival in Tuscaloosa aboard the steamer *Kinney*, February 6, 1847, President Manly discussed the matter with him and Thomas stated "that there had been no intemperance, that he had taken a little opium & brandy, by advise of a Physician, to correct the influence of the water on his bowels, and that he was not aware of any impropriety of any sort." Five days later he began teaching, but he reputedly continued his excessive drinking. Professor Barnard told Manly that "Thomas is not only not an english [*sic*] scholar in spelling and grammar, & pronunciation and such like; but that he never studied the things he is to teach, and has no idea of what is required of him . . ." Late in February "some 40 or more persons, protesting against Mr. Thomas as being prejudiced on mere rumor," signed the petition mentioned. After much delay Thomas was allowed to "resign & leave Tuscaloosa on the next boat, and to receive a quarter's salary." On March 20-23 Manly recorded, "now he has got his money, he is in no hurry to be gone . . . He is still here."

²⁸ *Independent Monitor*, May 13, 1846.

²⁹ Minutes of the Proceedings of the Faculty . . . 1841-1854, pp. 113, 114, 116 (May 22, June 12, July 10, 1846).

student citizens of Tuscaloosa were likewise stirred by events on the Mexican-Texas border. Late in August Judge S. D. J. Moore, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Alabama's Quartermaster General Carter R. Harrison, and John G. Barr left Tuscaloosa on a recruiting expedition throughout Tuscaloosa and adjoining counties.³⁰ And on November 9, 1847, according to the *Independent Monitor*,

Capt. J. G. Barr marched into this city on Saturday morning last, with about half a company of volunteers for the war, from Bibb county. We understand that Capt. Barr has more than a full company enrolled. He left, yesterday morning, for Shelby, to bring in another squad. The Bibb volunteers are a sturdy looking set, and to us seem to exhibit an appearance of more than ordinary intelligence. They look like sensible, as well as, stout men. Capt. Barr is encamped, at present, about two miles from the city. His little camp presents a very cheerful appearance.³¹

In less than ten days Captain Barr had completed his recruiting, and on November 19 the Warrior Guards, as the thirty-year-old company was (and now, 103 years later is) known,³² "struck their tents" and, after being addressed at the dock by Governor Martin and cheered by "a large assemblage of citizens," embarked on the Warrior River steamer *Arkansas* for Mobile. Just before leaving, the Guards elected their lieutenants and other officers.³³

On Tuesday, November 23, the company arrived in Mo-

³⁰ *Independent Monitor*, September 2, 1847.

³¹ Barr's appointment to captaincy is not explained, but it was probably political (see *infra*, n. 71).

³² The Warrior Guards were mustered in April 19, 1819, and, stated the *Tuscaloosa News*, November 13-16, 1950, "thus today comprise the oldest active military organization in the state."

³³ *Independent Monitor*, November 23, 1847. The officers elected were:

John G. Barr, Captain	William C. Mahan, Third Sergeant
John W. Caddell, First Lieutenant	Thomas Loftin, Fourth Sergeant
Peyton G. King, First 2nd Lieutenant	William H. Morgan, First Corporal
Elijah Hood, Second 2nd Lieutenant	John Casey, Second Corporal
John Q. Loomis, First Sergeant	Joseph C. McClendon, Third Corporal
Alexander Abney, Second Sergeant	Elias Robbs, Corporal

bile, were "comfortably quartered at the Independent Press,"³⁴ and two days later were mustered into the United States Army as Company A, 1st Battalion, Alabama Volunteers, Major John J. Seibels commanding.³⁵ The battalion consisted of five companies from Tuscaloosa, Wilcox, Dallas, Lowndes, Barbour, Mobile and Sumter counties, and at the time Company A included, besides Captain Barr, eleven other officers and sixty-seven "rank and file."³⁶ Exactly when the troops embarked from Mobile for Mexico is not recorded, but it is known that "the battalion reached Vera Cruz too late to join General Scott's forces, but was on garrison duty in the interior, principally at Orizaba, till the peace."³⁷

As an officer Captain Barr was signally successful, according to those who knew him. Although his company was not actively engaged in battle with the Mexicans, one account states,

. . . [Barr's] great skill and tact daily exhibited in drilling his Company, did not escape the attention and admiration of officers higher in command; and he was called upon to discharge the active duties of Lieutenant-Colonel of his battalion—duties which were so often and ably performed, that he acquired the distinction of Lieutenant-Colonel himself. And when the war ended in 1848, and he was discharged from service, he bore the distinction home to Tuscaloosa.³⁸

³⁴ *Mobile Register and Journal*, November 25, 1847.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, November 5, 1847. Seibels is later referred to as colonel (see Brewer, *op. cit.*, p. 459).

³⁶ *Register and Journal*, November 29, 1847. Some uncertainty exists regarding the number of men in Company A. *Ibid.*, November 25, 1847, lists "Capt. J. G. Barr and 79 volunteers," whereas the later paper states, "Capt. Barr's company consists of 67 rank and file, and his lieutenants are Messrs. Loomis, King, and Hood." The official "Muster-Out Roll," June 28, 1848 (in Mexican War Military Archives, Military Records Division, Alabama Department of Archives and History) records ninety-one men, thirteen of whom were officers and non-commissioned officers. See also Thomas M. Owen, "Mexican War Record," *Publications of the Alabama Historical Society* (Montgomery, 1901), I, 330-331.

³⁷ Brewer, *op. cit.*, pp. 588-589.

³⁸ *Independent Monitor*, September 16, 1858, copied from the *Tuscaloosa Observer*, September 9, 1858. The article is entitled "Death of Col. Barr." However, official records do not state that Captain Barr ever held any other rank, although he was called both "Captain Barr" and "Colonel Barr" after his discharge from the service.

Official records indicate also that Captain Barr was several times called upon to exercise his legal training by serving as an officer in regimental courtmartial proceedings. And a century later it was recorded in a history of the Warrior Guards that he was "not only . . . a very able commander in the field, but he was summoned to assist in arranging the terms of the peace."³⁹

In early summer of 1848 the 1st Battalion sailed northward from Vera Cruz on the bark *Mopang*, arriving in Mobile June 21 or 22. "We are gratified to learn," stated the *Register and Journal*, "that in this battalion the general health of officers and men is good, and that the return home has given new vigor to the invalids." On June 28 the outfit, which altogether had served slightly more than seven months in the United States Army, was officially paid off, mustered out and the next day honored at a mammoth barbecue dinner celebration given by the City of Mobile.⁴⁰ The soldiers of Company A, the Warrior Guards, having been officially discharged in Mobile, did not reach Tuscaloosa in a body and only a few of them accompanied their captain as he disembarked from the steamer *Russell* on July 4. The large reception which had been planned for "the patriotic volunteers" was therefore cancelled. But "our brave townsman, Captain Barr" was quite the same, although he unfortunately "appears to have forgotten his razor, when he embarked for Mexico." He admitted that "since his arrival in Mobile, he had suffered from an attack of rheumatism. Nothing, however, can subdue his native cheerfulness: and he treats the sneaking malady so lightly, that it will probably leave him soon, out of spite."⁴¹

Spirit, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858) states that he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, but *ibid.*, XXVIII, 437 (October 23, 1858) describes him as "Col. John G. Barr."

³⁹ *Tuscaloosa News*, November 13, 1950; see also Peter A. Brannon, military archivist, Alabama Department Archives and History, to Sarah A. Verner, November 14, 1950 (in University of Alabama Library).

⁴⁰ June 23, 30, 1848.

⁴¹ *Independent Monitor*, July 6, 1848.

Actually, Barr's sojourn in the Army had done him in more seriously than was at first supposed, for he suffered bad health for an undetermined while before being able to resume his practice of law. It was at this juncture in his career (1848-1849) that he also accepted the "editorial management" of the *Observer*, a new Tuscaloosa newspaper to which he had earlier contributed and for which during the next few years he was to write "many masterly productions."⁴² An enthusiastic member of the Episcopal Church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, he was in this last decade of his life called upon to serve in many public capacities and "by his . . . occasional, brilliant, eloquent efforts upon the stump, he became, in every sense, a prominent politician." The facts that he was chosen to address the Warrior Division of the Sons of Temperance on a special occasion in 1848 and elected to serve as "Marshall at the laying of the cornerstone of the Alabama Asylum for the Insane," July 14, 1853, attest to his prominence as a public-spirited and influential citizen of Tuscaloosa.⁴³ In the University of Alabama community he was also held in high regard: for instance, in July, 1857 he was appointed to write the obituary of and deliver an oration before the Erosophic and Philomatic societies for the distinguished Colonel Burwell Boykin, who had died suddenly after but four days illness.⁴⁴ Possessed of a "remarkably sprightly and highly imaginative mind, stored with a rich

⁴² Elizabeth L. Simms, "A Study of the Flag of the Union . . . 1833-43: Its Importance and Influence" (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alabama, 1950), pp. 97-98, states that the *Observer* was begun by James D. Warren in January, 1847.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, January 4, 1849, July 15, 1853. It is extremely unfortunate that no files of the Tuscaloosa *Observer*, the *Independent Monitor*, or the *Flag of the Union* are known to exist for April, 1849-March 1857. Hence, Barr's career for these important years cannot be followed closely. W. W. Screws, "Alabama Journalism," in *Memorial Record of Alabama* . . . (Madison, 1893), II, 175, confirms Barr's editorship of the *Observer* and gives James W. Warren as publisher.

⁴⁴ *Independent Monitor*, July 9, 14, 16, 1857. See Burwell Boykin, *Contributions of Science to the Uses of Man. Anniversary Oration . . . Before the Erosophic and Philomathic Societies of the University of Alabama, July 14, 1857. Together with a Eulogy on the Life and Character of the Author, Pronounced at the Request of the Two Societies*, by John G. Barr (Tuscaloosa, 1857), pp. 1-35.

fund of general miscellaneous reading and information," Barr, the lawyer-editor, was not infrequently the center of attention in legal, literary and social circles. "His conversation . . . was characterized by the richest humor and most brilliant repartee, and rendered him eminently entertaining and attractive" in almost any company and in all levels of association.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, as a *littérateur* his reputation was being greatly enhanced: with Alexander B. Meek, William R. Smith, Frederick A. P. Barnard, G. P. Blevins and others he composed what has been described as Tuscaloosa's "Brilliant galaxy of young men."⁴⁶ But his fame as a graceful writer and humorist had by the mid-1850's extended far beyond the borders of his county and state, bringing him "to some extent, a national literary reputation." *The Spirit of the Times* and *Porter's Spirit*, New York weeklies, were eagerly printing his many humorous stories, all of which were "highly prized for the richest humor and wit,"⁴⁷ and at least one of his more serious efforts, "Piscatory Reflections and Reminiscences," was published in *The Knickerbocker, New York Monthly Magazine*.⁴⁸

Barr's first contribution to the *Spirit* was a story entitled "Salted Him, or An Auctioneer Doing All the Bidding," in the issue of October 20, 1855. It was signed "Omega," and described by the editor as "from a *New Alabama Correspondent*."⁴⁹ Actually, "Salted Him," although written expressly for the *Spirit*, had originally appeared in the *Tuscaloosa Independent Monitor* (under the title, "Skin, Slayed and Salted") "for the benefit of the readers [in Alabama] who are well acquainted with the characters." Johnson J. Hooper, editor of the *Montgomery Mail*, called it "one of the richest

⁴⁵ *Spirit*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858).

⁴⁶ Brewer, *op. cit.*, p. 565.

⁴⁷ *Spirit*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858).

⁴⁸ XLVIII, 149-160 (August, 1856).

⁴⁹ XXV, 422 (October 20, 1855).

stories ever published" and the *Independent Monitor's* editor boastfully declared that he had taken the liberty of using the story, trusting that to the editor of the *Spirit* it made no difference whether his paper published it "before or after" its appearance in the metropolitan weekly.⁵⁰ In less than a month a second of Barr's yarns, "Old Charley and the President's Veto," was issued by the *Spirit*,⁵¹ and before the end of the year a third appeared, "Old Charley and His Impromptu Ride."⁵² As the new year got under way, the *Spirit* carried another long humorous essay entitled the "Matrimonial Club of Alabama," copied from a January issue of the Tuscaloosa *Independent Monitor*. Although unsigned, the article has all the earmarks of Barr's subject matter and style and it is reasonable to suppose that he at least had a hand in its preparation.⁵³ Two more of Barr's witty pieces appeared in May, "A Hand-Around Supper in Alabama" and "A Steamboat Captain's Love Adventure,"⁵⁴ and in June, July and August one each—"How Tom Croghan Carved the Turkey," "Spiritualism Explained," and "Piscatory Reflections and Reminiscences," the last-named having been copied from the August (1856) *Knickerbocker Magazine*.⁵⁵

At this precise time William T. Porter, the distinguished editor of the *Spirit* and the man who had encouraged Barr to continue his efforts in the humorous vein, resigned his position and announced that at once he would begin publication of a rival "Spirit" to be entitled *Porter's Spirit of the Times*. He was succeeded as editor of the *Spirit* by Edward E. Jones who "for more than twenty-one years" had been connected with the original weekly. Both men, once colleagues but now

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, XXV, 486 (November 24, 1855).

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, XXV, 470-471 (November 17, 1855). This story had also appeared in the *Independent Monitor* (see *Spirit*, XXV, 486, November 24, 1855).

⁵² *Ibid.*, XXV, 495-496 (December 1, 1855).

⁵³ *Ibid.*, XXVI, 2 (February 16, 1856).

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, XXVI, 173, 183-184 (May 24, 31, 1856).

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, XXVI, 219, 242, 316-317 (June 21, July 5, August 16, 1856).

rivals, sought eagerly the continuing services of "Omega," the fruitful Alabama editor-lawyer-humorist. Jones advertised that Barr (as well as other distinguished correspondents) would "keep on writing for the *Spirit*,"⁵⁶ and early in 1857 continued to list "Omega" as a contributor.⁵⁷ But never was Jones able to publish another of Barr's stories in the "old" *Spirit*.⁵⁸ Porter, meanwhile, by virtue of his past kindnesses to Barr, was far more successful. For the very first issue of his new *Porter's Spirit*, September 6, 1856, contained a robust, delightful tale by "Omega," entitled "New York Drummer's Ride to Greensboro," accompanied by the following enthusiastic comment in which the New Yorker compared the Alabamian to the great English Dickens:

We point with pride to the appearance and contents of the present number . . . look at the contribution from "Omega," a lesson of humorous style and artistic finish, which might be consulted with advantage by the crowd of writers trying to follow in the path of Dickens . . .

Barr, apparently appreciating Porter's interest in his work, obligingly wrote him a long letter, signed "Omega," which Porter printed:

Your favor of the 8th inst., came to hand yesterday morning, and I forthwith determined, with such leisure as I could command, to endeavor to comply with your flatteringly-expressed request. You perceive the time I have had, and enclosed please find the result of its occupation. The story ["New York Drummer's Ride to Greensboro"] is a *true* one, and is even yet repeated in our community,—I

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, XXVI, 366 (September 13, 1856).

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, XXVII, 1 (February 14, 1857). Other Alabama contributors listed besides "Omega" of Tuscaloosa, were "Quid Nunc," Uniontown; "Bourbon," Gainesville; "B," Mobile; and "The Very Young 'Un," no town given. See *infra*, n .64.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, XXVII, 111 (April 18, 1857) contains an interesting yarn, "How Mrs. Grimes Killed the Panther," by Isabel Gayle, copied from the *Marion (Alabama) American*.

trust you may find it worthy your columns. Such as I could, send I unto thee . . .⁵⁹

A week later Porter announced that his next issue would contain another "slashing paper from Omega," a prediction which was fulfilled by the appearance of "Jemmy Owen's Fifty Dollar Note; or Moind Whay Ye Say" in the issue of September 20.⁶⁰ In February, 1857 two more of Barr's long stories were published, "John Bealle's Accident; or, How the Widow Dudu Treated Insanity" and "Relief for Ireland! or, John Brown's Bad Luck with His Pickled Beef." The first of these was enthusiastically greeted by the following editorial:

Omega in the Field Once More!—We shall publish next week a superb story by this brilliant member of the "Old Guard." It will be entitled, "How the Widow Dudu Treated Insanity," and we think our readers will agree with us, that it quite equals, and if possible exceeds, the inimitable sketches previously published in our columns, under the titles of "Jemmy Owen's Fifty Dollar Note"—and "The New York Drummer's Ride to Greensboro." The story will occupy nearly three pages of our paper, but it will pay the time. So hats off in front, and look out for the Widow Dudu!

When "Widow Dudu" appeared, Porter described it as "Omega's admirable story," adding that he had also received "another contribution from the same master-hand, entitled 'Relief for Ireland . . .'"⁶¹ These were followed in March by "A Lively Village; or, Brisk Speculation in a New Commodity," about which Porter enthusiastically commented, "*Omega Again*. Let no one who is fond of a good laugh omit to read the admirable story of Omega, on the first page."⁶²

Meanwhile, *Porter's Spirit* was prospering. In September,

⁵⁹ *Porter's Spirit, A Chronicle of the Turf, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage*, I, 6-8, 14 (September 6, 1856).

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, I, 34-36 (September 20, 1856).

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, I, 369, 377-379, 385, 393-395 (February 7, 14, 21, 1857).

⁶² *Ibid.*, II, 49-51, 57 (March 28, 1857).

1856, after the publication of but four issues, the editor announced that his circulation had jumped to "more than 30,000 copies" and that his goal was 100,000 by the end of the year.⁶³ Barr's stories were of course in some small measure responsible for Porter's success, for, as has been indicated, he had contributed five original stories to the new hebdomadal between September and March.⁶⁴ However, after March 28, 1857 nothing of "Omega's" appeared for seven months, until October 24, at which time "Misplaced Confidence; or, Bilking a Boniface" was heralded by Porter in these words:

Omega Again. Our readers will be glad to meet with their old friend, the rich, racy, sterling, and unsurpassed Omega, on the first page, once more. Though no one will omit reading him, we seize this opportunity of shaking hands with him in this way, after his long absence, and of passing him into the presence of the public with congratulations on the pleasure which we will enjoy in common, on his reappearance.⁶⁵

Had the genial Porter known the reason, he would not have chastised Barr, even so mildly, for his "long absence." For Barr was too much involved in Alabama politics in the summer of 1857 to find time to write "sterling and unsurpassed" essays for *Porter's Spirit*. In the early weeks of that year he announced himself a candidate for United States Congress from the Fourth Alabama District. Against him stood three opponents, two of whom were recognized as powerful: Judge Sydenham Moore, a Democrat (as was Barr), a man named Lee, and the incumbent, the well-known Judge William R. Smith, who was candidate for re-election, on the American or Know-Nothing ticket.⁶⁶

⁶³ *Ibid.*, I, 56 (September 27, 1856).

⁶⁴ Barr had also encouraged at least one other Alabama author, "Omicron" of Pickens County, to contribute to *Porter's Spirit* (see "Bubbles for the Spirit," *ibid.*, 99, October 11, 1856).

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, III, 113-115, 120 (October 24, 1857).

⁶⁶ Anne Easby-Smith, *William Russell Smith of Alabama: His Life and Works . . .* (Philadelphia, 1931).

Like so many lawyers and editor-lawyers on the early American frontiers Barr had long had a propensity for politics. Since his defeat for the House of Representatives in 1847, he had doubtless planned at one time or another again to run for public office. A staunch Democrat, he had not failed the opportunity in the summer of 1856 to play well his role as elector from the Fourth Alabama District at the State Democratic Convention in Montgomery. And it was a widely known fact, as later developments unquestionably proved, that by his personal platform appearances and by perspicaciously casting his vote as an elector he had been "largely instrumental" in winning for President Buchanan and Vice-President Breckinridge large Alabama majorities over Millard Fillmore and A. J. Donelson.⁶⁷ As one historian has declared, as elector "Barr canvassed with great power and effect for Buchanan and Breckinridge. His political information was sound, and his style of speaking very attractive. Crowds followed to hear him."⁶⁸

By April the congressional race had become an angry one. The *Independent Monitor*, a strong Smith paper, quoted the Marion (Alabama) *American* as follows:

The Barr Fight. There has been a very rough and angry *bar-fight* going on for several weeks in this District, principally between the Greensboro' *Beacon*, the Tuscaloosa *Observer*, and the Linden *Jeffersonian* . . . They are all quarreling . . . over a very small matter,—which of the aspirants Moore, Barr, or Lee shall have the honor of being beaten by Billy Smith for Congress.⁶⁹

"Whispering campaigns" were employed by all candidates and in early July it looked as if there would be new Alabama representation in Washington.⁷⁰ Barr drew his share of

⁶⁷ *Spirit*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858).

⁶⁸ Garrett, *op. cit.*, p. 709.

⁶⁹ April 30, 1857.

⁷⁰ Easby-Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 86.

fire. Throughout May and June he was sharply attacked in the enemy press as a two-faced politician: two years before, in the 1855 race, he had voted *for* Judge Smith, but now he was running *against* him, the *Independent Monitor* complained. Quickly, Barr's supporters denied the charges: their candidate had never voted for Smith or any Know-Nothing. But the Smith voters thought otherwise, accusing Barr of even then himself being a Know-Nothing, secretly, in 1857. Moreover, they declared that Barr had always previously supported and should now support Smith because without him he (Barr) would never have got his captain's commission in the War with Mexico ten years before.⁷¹

Whether Barr was actually vulnerable to these attacks or whether he ultimately saw political wisdom in concentrating all Democratic power in one candidate against Know-Nothing Smith, he suddenly announced on June 1 that he had withdrawn from the congressional race, thus throwing his support to Judge Moore.⁷² For this he was also vigorously denounced, it being claimed that he was printing and distributing political circulars through the *Observer* press.⁷³ As it proved, Barr's withdrawal gave "the Demcoracy" a complete victory—Moore was elected by a 1400 majority over Smith who had twice defeated him previously. "The whole delegation [i.e., the state] went Democratic," and in Barr's Fourth District Buchanan scored 5252 votes against 4701 for Fillmore. In short, the Democrats — Barr's party — won all around.⁷⁴

The "great power and effect" with which Barr had canvassed for Buchanan and Breckinridge, to say nothing of the

⁷¹ *Independent Monitor*, April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 1857 (see *supra*, n. 31).

⁷² *Spirit*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858), quoting the *Observer*, September 9, 1858, states, however, that Barr did not withdraw from the race until *after* he had received the majority of the votes "of the delegates for the Congressional nomination."

⁷³ *Independent Monitor*, June 4, July 30, 1857.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, August 6, 1857; Brewer, *op. cit.*, p. 265.

sagacious way he had maneuvered Judge Sydenham Moore's victory over the distinguished Judge William R. Smith and quieted the "feuds and contentions threatening the harmony of the party," did not pass unnoticed in the halls of the Democratic assemblies of Montgomery or of Washington. When the new state legislature convened in the fall of 1857, all Democratic members including Crawford M. Jackson, Speaker of the House, and James M. Calhoun, President of the Senate, signed a "flattering testimonial" in Barr's behalf, urging the President of the United States to "give him an appointment worthy of his distinguished talents and great party services."⁷⁵

Barr hurried to Washington to present his credentials, file the proper papers and—wait. Just as the new year came, so did his reward. On January 19, 1858 President Buchanan personally nominated him "to be consul of the United States at Melbourne, in place of I. M. Tarlton, recalled." The next day the nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce and the day after quickly approved by the Senate.⁷⁶ A Washington correspondent for the *Montgomery Daily Confederation* summed up the appointment thus:

The President and Gen. [Lewis] Cass, duly appreciating the services of John G. Barr, of your State, in the cause of the Democracy, have conferred upon him one of the best Consulates in their gift, that at Melbourne, Australia, and as soon as he can complete arrangements, he will proceed there to enter on his duties.

To that quoted report the gossipy editor of the *Tuscaloosa Independent Monitor* added, "We understand that the Consulate . . . is worth some four thousand dollars per annum, and we congratulate our townsman upon his good fortune."⁷⁷

⁷⁵ Garrett, *op. cit.*, p. 709.

⁷⁶ *Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate of the United States of America* (Washington, 1887), X, 297-299; Adelaide R. Hasse, *Index to United States Documents Relating to Foreign Affairs 1828-1861* (Washington, 1914), III, 1710.

⁷⁷ *Independent Monitor*, February 4, 1858, quoted from the *Montgomery Daily Confederation*.

Barr sailed from New York on the Royal Mail steamer *Emeu* in late March, and several weeks later, on May 18, 1858, between Suez and Melbourne, only three days out from his destination, he died of *coup de soleil*—a sunstroke—and was buried at sea, his body wrapped in the Stars and Stripes.⁷⁸

Notice of his death did not reach Alabama for three months. On August 31 the *Daily Confederation* reported that the news would be “melancholy tidings to his numerous friends . . . Alabama loses a patriotic and valuable citizen—a son whose future promised to adorn a bright page in her history.” Barr’s friend, the noted humorist-editor, Johnson Jones Hooper, wrote:

Omega Dead! With the deepest regret we learn of the death of our accomplished friend John G. Barr, of Tuscaloosa, on board the vessel conveying him to Melbourne, at which post he had been appointed Consul . . . We knew Mr. Barr intimately. No nobler nature ever existed. In intellect, as well as moral constitution, he was peculiarly gifted. The pages of the “Knickerbocker” and of “Porter’s Spirit” amply attest his genius. Mr. Barr was about thirty-four years of age. He leaves, we believe, no relatives except a sister who resides at Tuscaloosa.⁷⁹

In Tuscaloosa the editor of the *Independent Monitor*, visibly disturbed, briefly reported, “Is it possible that Col. Barr is dead! He left us so recently, bouyant with health and brilliant prospects, and now so suddenly cut down! It is difficult to realize . . .”⁸⁰ One week later the *Observer* printed a carefully detailed two-column obituary of Barr’s life.⁸¹ This was copied in its entirety by the *Independent Monitor* in its following issue,⁸² and early in October given international dis-

⁷⁸ *Spirit*, XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858); statement of Martha M. Barr Gooch, in Barr File.

⁷⁹ August 31, 1858.

⁸⁰ September 2, 1858.

⁸¹ September 9, 1858.

⁸² September 16, 1858.

tribution in the *Spirit of the Times*. Meanwhile, Tuscaloosans, deeply moved by the death of their young but distinguished fellow citizen, held a public memorial service in his honor.⁸³ It was generally agreed, as one admirer wrote to the Centreville (Alabama) *Enquirer*, that "a man of brilliant parts" had died, a man whose "social qualities . . . endeared him to all who had the good fortune to be thrown in his company."⁸⁴

John Gorman Barr will now be principally remembered for his humorous stories, fifteen of which he contributed to the *Spirit* and *Porter's Spirit* between October 20, 1855 and October 24, 1857. Coarse, rowdy, rough yarns they were, filled with homespun crudities and told in the salty vernacular of the frontier. Some of them were doubtless apocryphal, first heard by their recorder around the blazing log fires of Duffee's Tavern in Tuscaloosa, on a Warrior River steamboat or the University of Alabama campus or in a squatter's cabin far in the backwoods. Others Barr may have pieced together or completely fabricated. Now, at any rate, after a century these yarns—like those of many of his contemporaries—have at last drifted into that hazy literary region known as folklore. But whatever they were or are, the tall tales of the Old Southwest represent a simple, home-made literature of the people, by the people and for the people. As a contemporary critic in *Porter's Spirit* described this "American Sporting Literature," it was "fresh, crisp, vigorous, elastic, graphic . . . , full of force, readiness, actuality, and point." Moreover, he continued:

[It] was not stewed in the closet, or fretted out at some pale pensioned laborer's desk, but sparkled from the cheerful leisure of the easy scholar—poured in from the emulous officers in barracks, or at

⁸³ XXVIII, 414 (October 9, 1858). *Porter's Spirit* did not record Barr's death. William T. Porter himself died in July (*ibid.*, IV, 328-329, July 24, 1858).

⁸⁴ *Spirit*, XXVIII, 437 (October 23, 1858). This article contains a humorous anecdote about Barr, signed "S.K.J."

sea—emanated from the jocund poet—and flowed from every mead, or lake, or mountain—in the land where the rifle or the rod was known.⁸⁵

Indeed, these yarns were America's frontier in action, a literature as indigenous as a camp-meeting-with-dinner-on-the-ground, corn-shuckings or house-warmings. They were the Old South looking at itself, laughing at itself, and talking about itself. They were and are as near as America has yet come to a literature all its own. Until lately, within the last twenty-five years, the writings of these frontier stalwarts have been pretty much overlooked, "elegantly ignored by most of our writers of American history . . . and students of American literature, who have been, for the most part, either ignorant of the field or superior to it."⁸⁶ More recently, however, they have attracted deservedly increasing attention as a highly important element of America's literary heritage.⁸⁷

Few, if any, of the writers in this so-called "Big Bear School of American Humor" were professionals.⁸⁸ Rather, they were—like Hooper and Baldwin and Barr—mostly respectable lawyers or editors, or they were doctors, surveyors, preachers, printers, planters, soldiers or actors. But they had keen eyes for the incongruous, they knew how to blend horseplay with horse-sense to make horse-laughs and in so doing they created, perhaps unconsciously, a distinctly national type of literary expression. Many of these writers are well-known: Davy Crockett, George W. Harris ("Sut Lovingood"), Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, William T. Thompson ("Major

⁸⁵ IV, 328 (July 24, 1853).

⁸⁶ Meine, *op. cit.*, p. xxvi.

⁸⁷ See for examples, besides the works of Meine, DeVoto and Blair already cited: James R. Aswell (ed.), *Native American Humor* (New York, 1947); B. A. Botkin (ed.), *A Treasury of American Folklore* (New York, 1944); Arthur P. Hudson, *Humor of the Old Deep South* (New York, 1936); James R. Masterson, *Tail Tales of Arkansas* (Boston, 1943); and Constance Rourke, *American Humor: A Study of National Character* (New York, 1931).

⁸⁸ Bernard DeVoto, "Frontier America," *Saturday Review of Literature*, V, 1067 (June 1, 1929).

Jones"), Sol Smith, Johnson Jones Hooper, and a host of others. And all were tongue-in-cheek raconteurs for whom everything on the frontier was grist for the literary mill—gambling, horse-racing, backwoods weddings and funerals, murders, local customs, revival meetings and just plain back-country rowdyism. To them American literature owes a great debt. Without them our social history would be but dull drivel of a pseudo-chivalric past, a ruffled record of dyspeptic lords and crinolined ladies—as *un-American* as five o'clock tea. But with them is an almost inexhaustible treasury of life in the rough, reported by men with shrewd and humorous insight who were not afraid in early, hurly-burly America to look at themselves and—laugh.⁸⁹

John Gorman Barr's stories range in length from about 4000 to 8000 words and without exception the scenes are laid in Alabama, mostly in his own Tuscaloosa. The following yarn, "New York Drummer's Ride to Greensboro'," (which the author described as a "*true* one, and is even yet repeated in our community") appeared in the first issue of the new *Porter's Spirit*, September 6, 1856. Porter, it will be remembered, called it "a lesson of humorous style and artistic finish, which might be consulted with advantage by the crowd of writers trying to follow in the path of Dickens." The story is used here, not necessarily because it is considered Barr's "best" by any means, but because it well represents his style, is illustrative of his type, and, being the shortest of his fifteen published stories, could well be reproduced.

⁸⁹ This summary of early Southwestern humor is a very brief condensation of a section of Chapter I of *Alias Simon Suggs* (see *supra*, n. 2); see also this writer's *Sam Slick in Texas* (San Antonio, 1945), pp. 2-6.

NEW YORK DRUMMER'S RIDE TO GREENSBORO'.

During the fast times of 1837, when the city of Tuscaloosa was a central point in the State of Alabama, and the Washington Hall Hotel a central point in the city, on a dreary winter's afternoon, a cosmopolitan arrived, worn and weak of body, in the western stage coach. He was an unmistakable type of a class of ubiquitous beings called—in the parlance of the times—New York drummers. For a score or more of weeks the coach had been his only shelter from the winter blast, and his transit had been so interrupted by mud and hill and flood as almost to preclude the recreation of sleep. Indeed, the "sweet restorer" had, with her "leaden legs and batty wings" only visited him during this period in brief and fitful slumbers, the more tantalizing in that they never satisfied the constant cravings of nature. Though he had many persons to see and much business to transact in the city, imperious engagements ahead would not admit his lying over a day or losing a stage in Tuscaloosa. He had consequently to bestir himself, with quiet activity, during the short space of time that would elapse before the departure of the Greensboro' stage, and fully equal was he to all his engagements, for if pedestrian speed is estimated by any ascertained time, he was emphatically an insider.

The coach, containing the traveller, had drawn up in front of the hotel named above, and one foot was yet upon its step, when he accosted the porter in this wise:—

"Where is Mr. H——'s store?"

"On the next corner, sir," was the prompt response.

"When does the stage leave for Greensboro'?"

"Nine o'clock to-night, sir," was the reply.

"Where is the stage office?"

"In the hotel, sir."

Though the baggage was removed from the coach with all the expedition usual in such cases, it had scarcely been done, ere our drummer, having passed to Mr. H——'s store and transacted business therein, had returned to the office of the hotel, and was engaged with the clerk after this manner:—

"Where is Mr. T——'s store?"

"Midway the next square, on this side of the street," replied the clerk.

"When does the Greensboro' stage leave?"

"Nine o'clock to-night," was responded.

"Is this the stage office?"

Being answered in the affirmative, he was off like an arrow, and might have been seen plunging along up the street in the direction of the store last enquired for. His fellow passengers had barely registered their names and called for rooms, when our enterprising man of business dashed into the hotel, having accomplished his mission, and meeting with Nat. Duffee, the proprietor of the house, hurriedly addressed him, with the slight variation, as follows:

"Where is attorney P——'s office?"

"It's in the second story over yon corner," responded Boniface, pointing with his hand diagonally across the street.

"When does the Greensboro' stage leave?"

"Nine o'clock to-night," was the answer.

"This is the stage office, is it?"

Scarcely waiting to receive the information sought by the last interrogation, he pitched out of the house and made off as if his life depended on the rapidity of his movements.

In the briefest possible time, he despatched his business with the lawyer, and returning to the hotel, and making enquiries for another store, preceded his departure for it, by earnest interrogatories to the manner and effect above stated, until their repetition, together with the impetuosity of his manner, the anxiety portrayed in his countenance and his deep solicitude touching the hour when the stage for Greensboro' left the city, had interested in his mission Tom Conning and Tom Jenkins, two youngsters, afflicted with an uncommon share of animal spirits and such notable proclivities for fun and frolic, as to have gained them the expressive soubriquet, among the "b'hoys," of the "Devil's Own."

Tom Conning and Tom Jenkins—lads just attaining the age when nascent mustacho engrosses attention—were inseparable companions, very Siamese twins in tastes and dispositions. And salient and striking beyond all other traits in their characters was a keen relish for rough sport and wild, mischievous pranks. The boldness and originality of their conceptions of practical jokes was only equalled by their energy and intrepidity in executing them. Confident in their manhood and self-reliant in all emergencies, they had acquired a dexterity in their management of game, which would have done credit to more experienced heads. Of easy and self-possessed address, good command of countenance and singularly precocious in all that pertains to mischief, this rollicking twain rarely failed when they had selected a victim,

to put him through in the most finished and artistic style. In short, to use the apt language of the old play, they were

"As prone to mischief, as able to perform it."

Conning, beckoning our drummer aside, addressed him in a manner in which was blended more of friendly interest than idle curiosity, after this style:—

"Excuse me, sir. You seem to be like myself, a stranger in these parts? Does your route take you beyond Tuskaloosa? I mean no offence by the enquiry, nor do I wish to pry into your affairs, but my own destination being Selma, and this being a rough country and dangerous times,—two men were killed in the stage between here and Selma last week and robbed,—I thought as a matter of mutual protection, in case our routes fell together, we should come to some understanding."

"No offence, I assure you, sir," quickly replied our drummer, evincing much alarm in his manner, "I had not heard that the roads hereabouts were infested with robbers; I had not heard of the murders you mention."

"Quite likely," rejoined Conning, "these things are so common about here that they excite but little attention. There was a man—the only passenger in the stage from here to Greensboro' about three weeks ago—shot through the head and then robbed and the driver knew nothing about it until he drove up to the hotel in Greensboro', when the discovery was made, yet I don't think the circumstance was mentioned in the newspapers, for fear, perhaps, that it would diminish the travel on the line."

"I appreciate your kindness," gratefully responded the drummer, becoming more restive and affrighted as the conversation proceeded. "My engagements require me to be in Greensboro' to-morrow morning. I shall be glad to have your company. Doesn't Greensboro' lie between this and Selma, your point of destination?"

"It does," continued Conning, in reply, "and my business is likewise of an imperious nature. It is my intention to take the stage for Greensboro' to-night and if every tree on the road was a highway robber, my mind is made up to make the trip. But, a word in your ear,—there is a difficulty, aside from the assassin's pistol and bowie-knife, which may prove quite as fatal to our prospect of reaching Greensboro' by morning. I am told that just at present there is an unprecedented throng of travel on this line and so many simultaneous applications for seats, that to avoid any difficulty which might result from a dis-

crimination on the part of the agent among applicants, he has peremptorily refused to register seats to any one, stating that he would receive passage money from each one, and would let it rest among those who had paid, to decide who shall remain over for the next stage. Now I have a project in view by which, my friend and travelling companion, Jenkins and myself, expect to overcome this obstacle and avoid the likelihood of detention. Our scheme can be more effectually carried out by additional assistance, and hence my reason for laying it before you."

"Assuredly, assuredly," eagerly exclaimed our traveller, "I will most cheerfully bear a hand in any project that will facilitate my progress to Greensboro'. Count on me. What is the scheme?"

"It is simply this," said Conning, in an exceedingly confidential and friendly manner, "you observe the empty coach across the street, now without horses,—that is the Greensboro' stage—it leaves to-night about nine o'clock—our plan is, upon rising from supper to repair to the coach, take our seats and retain them, against all contestants, until it starts. A little fighting may stand us in hand, but that's no matter—we're well armed—so we hold our seats."

"I'm in," enthusiastically responded the victim, accepting the proposition with a manifestation of earnestness, behind which some fear and apprehension was plainly visible, "I'm in and thank you, too; but I trust we may accomplish our purpose with out a fight; I am well armed however—always go thus when travelling in the South—and never desert a friend,—depend upon *me*."

"I knew," interposed Jenkins, drawing near the parties, and now taking part for the first time in the conversation, although he had been an attentive listener from its beginning, "I knew, as soon as I observed the cut of your jib, stranger, that you'd do. I was satisfied, from the cock of your eye, that you had *gizzard*! We have no time to lose. Let's slug-sup and prepare for business."

The liquor was despatched, supper bolted, stage-fare paid, pistols freshly capped, and the trio made their way speedily to the coach heretofore designated, into which Conning and the drummer entered and selecting their seats, flung themselves into them with the resolute air and bearing of men who were not to be ousted without risk and trouble; whilst Jenkins, protesting that it made him sea-sick to occupy an inside seat, mounted the box with the intention of keeping the driver company.

The night was cold, gusty and dark as an Egyptian fog could have

made it. The curtains of the coach were fastened in their places, our insiders disposed themselves as comfortably in their seats as circumstances permitted, and the drummer announced his intention to pay his respects to the drowsy god, between whom and himself there had existed but little intercourse for a length of time. The last sound that fell upon the ear of the weary traveller as he sunk into the unconsciousness of sleep, was the voice of our friend Jenkins on the driver's seat bidding adieu to an excited and rather clamorous concourse of friends, who had assembled to see him off. The shouts and laughter of these leave-takers—their earnestly-expressed wishes for Jenkins' success in his present undertaking—the warm admonitions to that popular individual to "take care of himself," "keep his eye skinned," "not to get his nose knocked out of joint," remembrances to friends in Greensboro', entreaties to *fire up* once more before setting out,—all this hubbub and confusion, lasting as it did a length of while, did not impede, but rather accelerated the fatigued drummer's transit to the land of Nod. In spite of all, he was soon locked, fast and sound, in the embrace of sleep.

In this state of blissful unconsciousness, he had remained above a couple of hours, when he was aroused to a partial state of intelligence, by the friendly hand of his fellow-passenger, Tom Conning, shaking him gently by the shoulder, who addressed him, as follows:—

"My friend, I dislike to disturb your dreams; but the night is so infernally cold, I thought I would ask if you wouldn't swallow a 'slug' of Carthage blue-head, just by way of warming you up a little. We have travelled fifteen miles,—and are now changing horses at Carthage—and if you have no objection I will shout to Tom Jenkins, who has gone into the Carthage Astor House to wet his whistle, to bring us out something to drink."

"Thank you," yawned out the drummer, stretching and gaping, "thank you, I will join you in a stiffener in celebration of our good luck to-night. Carthage—fifteen miles, you say—one-fourth of the distance to Greensboro'—I should not have believed I could have slept so sound,—I've been lucky from my cradle. How many passengers have we along?"

"We are not crowded," replied Conning, "several who intended taking the stage, got drunk before the time of its departure, and so missed it. We have only three insiders besides ourselves, all of whom are now in the tavern firing up. Hello! Tom, when you've finished imbibing, bring us a couple of 'stiff tods' out here."

The latter part of this speech, yelled at the top of his voice by the speaker through the coach window, was addressed to Tom Jenkins, who had abandoned, during the changing of horses, his cold and comfortless seat outside, and gone into the hotel.

"Ay, ay," affirmatively roared Jenkins from the door of the house, "the bar-keeper is mixing it now,—keep your shirt on—I'll bring it out in a jiffy."

After the lapse of a few minutes, Jenkins appeared at the door of the coach, bearing the warming potations.

"Pretty raw time you've had outside?" half interrogatively asked the drummer.

"Why, yes," responded Jenkins; "but it was not so bad as it might have been: it threatened rain awhile back, and still the clouds are black and lowering, but I have escaped with a dry skin! How do you get along inside?"

"Tolerably comfortable, considering," replied our drummer, "I never slept sounder in my life. But when a man has lost rest as long as I have, jolted and bumped nearly to death by the *corduroy* turn-pikes, it is not surprising that, on the smooth and excellent road we have been travelling to-night, that even a stage-coach should become a provocative to sleep. I fell asleep before we left Tuscaloosa—did not know when the stage left—and slept uninterruptedly until we stopped here to change horses."

"How long before we get off from Carthage, Tom?" asked the hitherto silent fellow-insider of the individual, who, having just ministered to their creature comforts, was moving with the empty tumblers away from the stage.

"Not long, I reckon," answered Jenkins, "I hear a fuss down at the stable, and suppose they are gearing up the team."

"Suppose we fix ourselves for another snooze," gapingly proposed Tom Conning to the drummer. "The road from here to Havanna, distant about ten miles, is as level as a floor, and, perchance, we may nap it as pleasantly as we did in the earlier part of the night?"

"Agreed, with all my heart!" chimed in the drummer. "I am still a week's solid sleep behind; so, here goes!"

And, true enough, his perfect stillness and regular breathing soon indicated that he was carrying the intention just expressed into happy and refreshing execution. Had he kept awake, it is barely possible that he would have been duly impressed with the extensiveness of Jenkins' popularity, as was manifested here, like it had been in Tuska-

loosa, by even still more hearty and boisterous expressions of interest and friendship, and still warmer and more emphatic leave-takings from a numerous assemblage, as that estimable and universally beliked individual left the hotel, and ascended the elevated seat appropriated to the driver.

An hour had scarcely elapsed, ere our somniferous drummer was again brought to his waking senses by Tom Conning, who, shaking him, thus spoke:

"Well, my friend, you are one of the seven sleepers, sure. Here are a parcel of fellows in front of the Eagle Hotel, in the village of Havanna, where we arrived some half hour ago, who have been making all sorts of frightful and hideous noises, and kicking up the devil's delight, generally,—they are evidently on an unqualified bender,—and still you sleep as quietly with your head on your valise, as an infant on its mother's bosom. Wake up, man, and say what you'll take to moisten your clay with! The bar-room, at the Eagle Hotel, Havanna, is hard to beat. What shall it be? Cocktails? Well—cocktails be it. O, Tom, send or bring us out a brace of rousing cocktails: it's too cold to leave our snug quarters in the stage; so, let us have them here."

"This is passing strange!" exclaimed the bewildered drummer. "My sleep is wonderfully sound! How far have we travelled since leaving Carthage? Ten miles, you say? It's downright curious! I have not the slightest recollection of a single occurrence by the way. I seem to have reversed the order of nature, and sleep soundest when in motion."

At this instant, Jenkins opened the coach door, and, presenting the stimulating beverages, accosted the inriders with:

"Gents, you are a brace of the best sleepers I've met with lately. I haven't slept a wink to-night, and am as wide awake now as I ever was. Stranger, you were never in Havanna before? Judging from present signs, I reckon you think it a right lively village, with about fifty fellows, now, at the hour of two o'clock, on an uproarious *burst*; but don't set the place down as too 'small potatoes,' on account of what you now hear, for I was here about six months ago, when there were at least a hundred chaps, blowing it out much stronger than they now are, and kept it up till morning, exercising one another, first and last, in thirty-seven fights, and only five killed at daylight. It's a *stirring* village, I tell you!"

With this striking encomium on the village, Jenkins left the coach, and plunged into the midst of the noisy and rollicking crowd.

"Mr. Conning," said the drummer, having seemed for a few moments to be absorbed in meditation, "it occurs to me that your friend Mr. Jenkins is a very widely known, as well as very popular man; he seems to be as well acquainted and as much at home here as he was in Tuskaloosa or Carthage. I can't tell when, judging from all I have seen to-night, I've met any one who seemed to have a more extensive circle of warm, devoted and enthusiastic friends."

"You say truly," answered Conning, "Tom Jenkins is a noble-hearted, generous, high-souled fellow, who is esteemed warmly wherever he is known; few men of his age have a more numerous or more devoted circle of friends and admirers."

"How long does the stage usually stop here?" asked the now slightly nervous drummer, as he caught a sound from the hilarious crowd, which indicated that a proposition was undergoing discussion, relative to taking somebody out of the stage.

"From a half hour to an hour, depending upon whether the stage is up with or behind time," responded Conning. "We can remain here an hour or two, and still get to Greensboro' by early breakfast. I wish that crowd of noisy fellows would go to bed, for I feel sleepier than I have felt before to-night; how is it with you?"

"Why, I believe I can go to sleep at the drop of a hat," lazily rejoined our drummer, as snugly ensconcing himself once more in the cushions, he sunk into the arms of Morpheus. "No poppy, nor mandragora, nor all the drowsy syrups of the East," could have sooner sealed him in complete obliviousness.

Eight o'clock the next morning, after these occurrences, the sun was shining brightly, the breakfast bells were pealing their cheering summons, as our drowsy drummer, rousing himself from his protracted slumbers, discovered that he was the sole tenant of the stage-coach in which he had travelled so smoothly, and slept so soundly during the night. Shaking himself to reestablish circulation and relax his stiffened limbs, he essayed to look through the glass window of the coach, and was delighted to find, despite the obscurity of the glass, that he was *in town*. Nevertheless, he could not keep from wondering and speculating as to the reason he had been left sleeping by his friendly fellow passengers, and the singular conduct of the hotel keepers in Greensboro', which would permit a traveller, who had ridden in the cold all night, to remain in the stage after he had arrived in

town, until the horses were taken from it, and the breakfast bells were ringing. Another feature in the case, too, sufficiently singular to command his attention, was the fact, discovered by him as he emerged from the coach, that he was just in front of an old carriage and smith shop, and what seemed to be the hotel was across the street.

A loud, cachinnatory roar saluted him, from a numerous assemblage of persons, who seemed to be gathered about the hotel corner, as, valise in hand, he bent his steps in their direction. Their vociferation and prolonged laughter, their boisterous shouts and clamorous yells brought forcibly to his mind the midnight revellers he had encountered at Carthage and Havanna, between whom and the present excited and uproarious multitude there occurred to his bewildered faculties to be only this difference: the one set did their work at night, whilst the other begun their exercises at early morning.

Passing into the hotel, the bellowing crowd pressing on his heels, he appeared for an instant to be somewhat taken aback by the striking resemblance which its interior arrangements and furniture, to say nothing of the enormous capitals, WASHINGTON HALL, painted along the whole length of the spacious bar-room, bore to the hotel in Tuskaloosa. Pondering as best he could, amid the deafening din and dire confusion by which he was surrounded, and attempting to reconcile these strange similarities, he was precipitated still further into doubt, perplexity and uncertainty, as he observed a large man move across the room, whose appearance was a *fac simile* of old Nat. Duffee, the hotel keeper whom he had left in Tuskaloosa the night before!

Sorely puzzled and staggered by the last mentioned circumstance, he made an effort to cast off the bewildering doubts that oppressed his mind, by boldly accosting the clerk, after first examining his memoranda-book, with the following enquiries:

"Where is the store-house of Messrs. Johnson & Henden?"

"I really don't know, sir," innocently and honestly answered the clerk; "I never heard of the firm before."

Another reference to the memoranda-book was followed by the question:

"Can you tell me where I will find the store of Messrs. Dickens, Webb & Co.?"

"I cannot inform you, sir. There is no such firm, I'm sure, in Tuska-loosa."

"Tuska——!" the astonished drummer began to ejaculate, but the sound died away on his lips. Moving forward to the desk on which

laid the hotel register of arrivals and departures, he beheld his own name, written in his dashing, clerk-like hand!

Asking for a room as soon as his wandering intellect permitted him to do so, he retired from the presence of the half-frantic crowd; and, in the depths of his chamber, hid his mortification, and nursed his revenge. Sometime during the day, he left the city in a private conveyance, undisturbed of idlers, and without making any demonstration of his purpose, further than to acquaint the hotel keeper, in direct accents of indignation, that he intended, on his arrival home, to expose, through the public press, the whole affair, and all the parties; or, to use what is still repeated in our city as the exact language of his threat, "He intended to publish the stage agent, the hotel keeper, and every man who was concerned in the scandalous transaction."

Having waited nineteen long years for the fulfilment of his threat, and never having seen word or line exhibiting the affair, we have essayed to rescue the fact from oblivion, in the present impartial and veracious history, yclept

"NEW YORK DRUMMER'S RIDE TO GREENSBORO'!"

OMEGA.

The Episcopal Church in the Alabama Black Belt, 1822-1836

By EDGAR LEGARE PENNINGTON

After the Treaty of Fort Jackson, August 9, 1814, many settlers, realizing the potential importance of the Alabama Territory, began to migrate into the region, claiming first the fertile land lying along the rivers. By 1821 river steamboat service as far inland as the fall line and a spreading network of stage lines had made the port of Mobile easily accessible and South and Central Alabama soon became a most productive agricultural section, especially for cotton planters. It was at this time that the attention of the newly-founded Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America was attracted to the state. The Reverend Christian Hanckle of Charleston, South Carolina addressed the Society, April 19, 1822 as follows:

In the state of Alabama, there are many Episcopalians, who have immigrated there from the southern states. I believe there is no Episcopal clergyman amongst them, and I am satisfied that no section of the United States presents a more interesting scene for missionary labours, both as it regards their prospects of success, and the necessities of the people.¹

Later in the same year a frame building was begun in Mobile, just outside the gates of old Fort Charlotte. Although the congregation was officially organized as a part of the Church

¹*Proceedings of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, 1823* (Philadelphia, 1823), p. 43.

of England, members of all Protestant communions worshipped in this, the city's first non-Roman Catholic church.² In December, 1827 the Reverend Henry M. Shaw arrived to become its rector, a post he held until 1831.³

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the state Episcopalians were active in the establishment of churches. In North Alabama, for instance, the Reverend William Wall held first services in Florence in 1826.⁴ And in 1826 the Reverend Robert Davis was appointed by the Society to visit the state and in late 1827 he succeeded in organizing a small congregation and arranging for the erection of a church in Tuscaloosa.⁵

Midway between Mobile and Tuscaloosa, in that region of rolling, black, sticky but especially rich cotton-growing prairie land known as the Black Belt, the Episcopal Society was also busy. Greensboro, a little town of a few log huts in 1816, was incorporated in 1823 and within a year boasted of a newspaper and a prospective College. Selma, a community three years older, was soon a settlement of prosperous cotton planters, men who "enjoyed a halcyon existence, spiced with a taste for politics and liquor, and a fine appreciation for the profession of law which many of them practised on the side. Into this setting, horse-racing and cock-fighting were introduced on a scale unknown elsewhere in the State."⁶

In 1830 Bishop Thomas C. Brownell of Connecticut was sent on an inspection tour on behalf of the Society, during the course of which he not only preached in Mobile and Tuscaloosa, where there were established parishes, but also visited Greensboro and preached at Selma and Montgomery.⁷

² Historical Records Survey, Inventory of the Church Archives of Alabama: Protestant Episcopal Church (Birmingham, 1939), pp. 3, 23.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

⁵ *Proceedings of the Board of Directors of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, May 13, 1828* (Philadelphia, 1828), p. 38.

⁶ *Alabama: A Guide to the Deep South*. American Guide Series (New York, 1941), pp. 236-238, 291.

⁷ William A. Beardsley (ed.), "Bishop Thomas C. Brownell's Journal of His Mis-

The Church [he wrote] is just springing into existence in the State of Alabama. Like the other western states, it contains many scattered Episcopalians, but it is only within the last year or two that any attempt has been made to collect them into parishes.⁸

As a result a state-wide meeting of the members and friends of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held in Mobile on January 25, 1830 for the purpose of giving a more efficient and permanent character to the activity of that church in Alabama.⁹

The first Episcopal church service held in Greensboro was on March 14, 1830, at which time the following "original compact" was signed by R. E. Meade, R. W. Withers, William T. Bolling, T. B. Randolph, Thomas J. Abbott, Ryland Randolph, J. B. Stickney, T. S. Washington, John Marrast, John Malone, and D. C. Witherspoon:

We whose names are hereunto affixed being anxious to promote the rational and reasonable worship of Almighty God according to the creed and doctrines adopted by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States do agree to form ourselves into a congregation to be denominated the Protestant Episcopal congregation of Greene County, and do hereby obligate ourselves to contribute something for the support of the ministry of the same.

Elected vestrymen were Doctor Richard E. Meade, Doctor R. C. Randolph, Doctor R. W. Withers, and Messrs. J. B. Stickney, J. Bell, Frank Inge, William Murphy, and Doctor R. Inge and Colonel Samuel Pickens.¹⁰

The Reverend Albert A. Muller, who came from Mississippi to Tuscaloosa as rector in February, 1830, visited Hunts-

sionary Tours, 1829 and 1834," *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, VII, 314-316 (December, 1938).

⁸ *Missionary Paper*, I, 70 (June, 1838).

⁹ Algernon Blair, "Some of the Early History of the Church in Alabama," *Centennial Celebration of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, 1831-1891* (Mobile, 1931), p. 15.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 35.

ville and Greensboro and reported at a Tuscaloosa convention on January 3, 1831 that

. . . there is good ground to believe that the zealous exertions of a pious, intelligent, and devoted minister of God, at each of the above-named places, would be attended with signal benefit to the Church in this State; that true religion, and rational and vital piety would greatly increase and that respectable and flourishing congregations would soon raise their hearts and voices in the affecting services, and apostolical worship of the Church of the Redeemer.¹¹

On August 22, 1831 at a meeting of the vestry of the Greensboro Episcopal Church, a committee was appointed to correspond with the Society for the purpose of procuring a minister and making such other arrangements as might be conducive to the future prospects of the local church. Thanks were voted to B. Dorman, Esq., for the donation of a lot of ground and it was agreed that a building was needed. However, the church was not built for nearly a decade thereafter.¹²

At the second annual convention held at Tuscaloosa, January 2-5, 1832, Muller stated that he made regular visits to Greensboro, holding services there monthly. Urged by a sense of duty to his immediate charge and realizing that no provision had been made to defray the expenses of his missionary activity to the Episcopalians of Greene County, he felt compelled, "very much against his inclinations and feelings, to relinquish his labours in that respective village."¹³ The convention responded by submitting to the Society a memorial requesting such aid for the Alabama Diocese "as that body can afford for its more permanent establishment and prosperity."

¹¹ *Journal of a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Alabama, Held in Christ Church, Tuscaloosa, on Monday, January 3, 1831 . . .* (Tuscaloosa, 1831), p. 5.

¹² Blair, *op. cit.*, p. 36.

¹³ *Journal of the Proceedings of the Second Annual Convention of the Clergy and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, Held in Christ Church, Tuscaloosa, on Monday, Jan. 2, Tuesday, Jan. 3, and Thursday, Jan. 5, 1832* (Tuscaloosa, 1832), pp. 4-5.

Greensboro was specified as one of the places in which "a Missionary would find a proper sphere for his usefulness and zeal."¹⁴

Alabama was admitted as a Diocese of the Episcopal Church in October, 1832. Since the church was unable to subsist without help from general missionary appropriations, the Society promised to aid the already-established work at Tuscaloosa and in December, 1832 the sum of \$100 was appropriated. The Reverend Samuel S. Lewis, who arrived at Tuscaloosa in the latter part of 1832, was the recipient of this bounty.¹⁵

In April, 1833 Lewis visited Demopolis and there "took the preliminary steps for organising a Church." In a letter to the Society, June 22, 1833, he reported:

It is situated in one of the richest and wealthiest portions of our State, and as there is no Church there of any kind, the people generally will support the Episcopal Church. They even talk of erecting an edifice in the course of another year, provided they obtain a clergyman. Religious services of some kind they are determined to have. They prefer the *Church*; but if they cannot procure an Episcopal clergyman, they will have one of some other communion.¹⁶

In June, 1833 the Society listed three stations—Tuscaloosa, Greensboro, and Huntsville. It was then noted that Lewis was "successfully engaged in the duties of the ministry at Tuscaloosa." To each of the other stations \$200 with an outfit had been appropriated, but both continued without missionaries.¹⁷ "This whole country is flooded with *ministers* of a certain stamp," wrote Lewis, "and acting upon the principle that it is better to have a minister of any character, than none at all, many a family have joined the ———, ———, &c. [*sic*],

¹⁴ Blair, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

¹⁵ *Proceedings of the Board of Directors of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, May 14-16, 1833* (Philadelphia, 1833), p. 33.

¹⁶ *Missionary Record*, I, 131 (September, 1833).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 82.

who would gladly have sheltered themselves under our more quiet and peaceful ark."¹⁸

The Reverend Caleb S. Ives was appointed missionary to Greensboro on September 23, 1833 and in December he commenced his labours. On Sunday, December 8, he held his first service and on Christmas Eve a church was organized. Meantime he officiated for the first time in Demopolis, December 15—"the first time a clergyman of this Church ever officiated in the place"—and as a result Trinity Church was organized, January 31, 1834.¹⁹ Ives, pleased at his response, wrote:

Here the doctrines and services of the Church are also favourably received; at least, as much so as could be expected, when it is known that very few of the families have been educated in our communion.

In his quarterly report to the Society, February 3, 1834, Ives stated that his journey to Demopolis had been "long and tedious, from the extremely low waters of the rivers passed on the way." He had "had but a small congregation," he added, "yet so large as to be encouraging, when the size of the place and all the other circumstances are duly considered." On his return to Greensboro he officiated in Erie, then the county seat, where there was no organized denominations or house of worship. In his report he also mentioned "the Fork, where are many families who have been educated in the Church," adding:

This place lies west of Greensborough, and northwest of Demopolis, between the Tombeckbee and Black Warrior rivers, immediately above their junction. This place I shall also visit as soon as the rivers fall

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 131.

¹⁹ *Journal of the Proceedings of the Conventions of the Clergy and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Alabama; Held in Christ Church, Tuscaloosa, on Monday, July 7, 1834, and on Monday, January 19, 1835* (Tuscaloosa, 1835), p. 10.

and the travelling will allow . . . There is a noble field for the labours of Episcopal clergymen in this growing state, even greater than I had supposed, before my arrival. From the fertility of the soil, there is a great tide of emigration into this section of our country, and especially from the states of Virginia and South Carolina. The families now emigrating are of the educated and intelligent part of the community; and those from the above-mentioned states have been mostly reared in our own communion; so that a Virginia gentleman has already remarked to me, that to say a family is from Virginia or South Carolina is almost synonymous with saying it is a family of Episcopalians. Hence the importance of clergymen here . . . men of education, intelligence, and above all, men of discretion, industry, and devotion, who will visit from house to house, who will preach in private houses, in school houses, and wherever two or three can be gathered together. At this time we want not so much churches, but *men*; godly, energetic, laborious men, who love their Saviour and His Church, and desire to glorify God in the salvation of their fellow men.²⁰

"The Fork of Greene" was admitted into the Diocese in 1847, as St. Mark's Church. A church building was started in 1854, and consecrated in 1858. In 1880, the edifice was moved to Boligee, about eight or ten miles away. Since 1885 the transplanted church has been known as St. Mark's, Boligee.²¹ On September 19, 1834 Ives began holding services also at Prairieville, Marengo County, a small town eight or nine miles east of Demopolis, where Episcopal services had never before been performed. He reported that "from the fertility of the soil and the advantage of its location, this place must soon be surrounded by a dense, wealthy, and educated population; which is already the case to no small extent."²² The two counties in which he officiated (Greene and Marengo) constituted, in Ives's opinion,

²⁰ *Missionary Record*, II, 51-52 (April, 1834).

²¹ Some of this information was supplied by the Reverend Ralph J. Kendall, secretary of the Diocese of Alabama and rector of St. Stephen's Church, Eutaw. "The Fork of Greene" is not the present Forkland—there never was a village at "the Fork."

²² Blair, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

. . . one of the most interesting and important fields to be found in the State. The climate is healthy: the soil exceedingly fertile; they are, therefore, rapidly filling up with families of wealth, intelligence, and respectability. Among those coming in, there is a good proportion of our own denomination. There is a constant series of little occurrences which encourage my heart and strengthen my hand, and show me that the interests of the Church are generally advancing; and that she is slowly commending herself to the approbation of the community.

One Sunday Ives would preach in Greensboro and the Prairies and at night he would officiate at Demopolis. On his Demopolis Sunday he would hold afternoon services in Prairieville,

[a] little town . . . in the midst of what is here known by the name of the Cane-Brake; for the most fertile, and will, no doubt, soon be the most wealthy part of the State. . . . Could the services of the Church be permanently established and regular in this place, I doubt not we might in a few years raise a parish of importance.

He added that a gentleman of the community had given him a frame of sufficient size to make a respectable church, but the minister was to meet the remaining expense of equipping it for worship. He needed \$100, he said, to complete it with a desk, chancel, seats, and other equipment.²³ The mission grew rapidly and was admitted as a parish in 1844, under the name of St. Andrew's Church. The house of worship was consecrated by Bishop Nicholas Hamner Cobbs on April 18, 1858.²⁴ Ives found difficulty in assembling a congregation in the winter months and at times he was obviously discouraged:

Twice I have rode [*sic*] from fifteen to twenty miles, and once ten miles, to officiate, but on account of the heavy rains and excessive cold, no congregation met.

²³ *Missionary Record*, III, 77-78 (May, 1835).

²⁴ Historical Records Survey, p. 29. Prairieville is not to be confused with St. John's-in-the-Prairies.

He witnessed some progress, however. At the Prairies he had arrived to find not a single communicant. But he could number seven at the beginning of 1835. At Demopolis he had ten—twice the number with which he began. There were five in Greensboro. But there were many discouragements, as he indicated:

I find the distance between Greensborough and Demopolis, and the difficulty of getting from one to the other when the waters are high, almost an insuperable objection to their being associated under the care of one missionary. I have sometimes been ferried a mile to get over one creek, which, when the waters are low, is not more than six or eight feet wide.²⁵

In March, 1835 the industrious missionary relinquished his station in the interior of the Diocese²⁶ and in the following December the Reverend John Avery, D.D., formerly of Edenton, North Carolina, arrived to assume the work in Greensboro and St. John's-in-the-Prairies. In Greensboro he found a respectable number who desired the Episcopal services and hoped to see a building erected for public worship. In the Prairies the vestry soon erected a small but comfortable church. His congregations, though small, were respectable for character, attentive to the service, "and some of them pious." He was unable on account of bad roads and poor health to cover the territory which his predecessors had traversed, however, and he was soon forced to restrict his ministry to his home parish.

On January 4, 1836 Demopolis was made a missionary station of the Society with an appropriation of \$250 for the minister's salary. Three months later Livingston was added, with

²⁵ *Missionary Record*, III, 77-78 (May, 1835).

²⁶ *Journal of the Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Alabama, Held in Greensborough, on Saturday, June 10th, 1837* (Mobile, 1837), p. 8. After a visit to the North, Ives returned to Alabama to accept a position as teacher in a Mobile seminary and a year later became a professor at Mobile Institute.

the Reverend Lucien B. Wright, of Maryland, in charge. But on November 23, 1836 the Society permitted him to move from Livingston to Demopolis, which had been combined with "the Fork" as a Society-supported station.²⁷

St. John's-in-the-Prairies became defunct in 1865 and the remnant of the congregation connected themselves with the parish church at Greensboro. The church building, a memorial to the Reverend Doctor Avery, was in 1878 given to the congregation at Forkland, near the junction of the Warrior and Tombigbee rivers.²⁸

The earnest missionaries who first served the Black Belt area did not foresee the changes which the future would unfold, but they were successful in planting certain parishes which have survived and which have proved a beneficent influence in the lives of four generations of Episcopalians.

²⁷ *Spirit of Missions*, I, 36, 129, 168; II, 3 (February, May, June, 1836; January, 1837).

²⁸ Blair, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

Notes and Documents

THE DIARY OF DR. BASIL MANLY, 1858-1867

Edited by W. STANLEY HOOLE

Dr. Basil Manly, the author of the diary from which the following pages are excerpted, was one of the best known and most influential citizens of ante-bellum Alabama. Born in North Carolina, near Pittsboro in Chatham County, January 29, 1798, he was licensed as a Baptist minister in 1818, entered the junior class of South Carolina College (University) in 1819 and two years later was graduated as honor man of his class. Between 1822 and 1835 his fame as a beloved minister spread throughout the South: in 1823 he was a member of the committee which founded Furman Academy and Theological Institution (later Furman University), in 1826 he became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, the oldest and then the wealthiest church of the denomination in the South, and in 1835 he was offered (but declined) the presidency of his Alma Mater. However, two years later he accepted the presidency of the University of Alabama, the duties of which he assumed December 6, 1837.

Manly was president of the Alabama institution for eighteen years, until October 1, 1855. Under his expert leadership the young school which had earlier been "in disfavor, without discipline, and without an orderly correlation of work," grew in quality and size, for Manly "stimulated perfect confidence, restored discipline of a firm but conciliatory character, enlarged the faculty, widened the courses of instruction, and gave shape and form to a real University life."¹ Meanwhile,

¹ Thomas M. Owen, "Dr. Basil Manly, the Founder of the Alabama Historical Society," *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society, 1899-1903* (Montgomery, 1904), IV, 125-140.

he continued to preach, to participate in church organizations, in state politics and in current affairs. Not the least important of his many activities was the founding of the Alabama Historical Society in 1850.²

On October 11, 1855 Manly returned to Charleston, this time to become pastor of Wentworth Street Baptist Church. During the next four years he was an enthusiastic promoter of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, president of three church conventions (1856-1858), and in general a powerful figure in his denomination. However, in May, 1859, tiring of his pastorate, he returned to Alabama as missionary or state evangelist (roving preacher).³ About a year later, on December 30, 1860, he was persuaded to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, a post he filled three years. Early in 1863 he removed to Tuscaloosa where he lived for four years, preaching occasionally but mostly devoting his time to farming and otherwise operating his large plantation in Lowndes County. In 1867 Manly returned once more to South Carolina. A year later, December 21, 1868, he died in Greenville at the home of his son.⁴

Manly was a prolific letter-writer and diarist. His five large 400-page letter-books or ledgers and two smaller 300-page day-books or diaries, covering the period from 1825 to 1868, are a veritable mine of historical data.⁵ For forty-four

² Allen J. Goings, "Historical Societies in Alabama," *Alabama Review*, I, 39-41 (January, 1948).

³ Dr. Manly's letter of appointment, dated Marion, Ala., May 27, 1859 and signed by Wm H. McIntosh, president of the Board of Domestic and Indian Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention, is tipped into the diary at page 23 (see also entry dated December 27, 1858). The position is described as "Missionary for the State of Alabama for the term of Five Years" at a salary of \$3000 per year.

⁴ For further information see Louise Manly, *The Manly Family, An Account of the Descendants of Captain Basil Manly of the Revolution and Related Families* (Greenville, 1930), pp. 99 ff.; *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1928-1937), XII, 237-238; and bibliography in Owen, *op. cit.*, IV, 140.

⁵ The diaries and letter-books along with 1564 letters and miscellaneous papers of Basil Manly, his son Charles and other members of the family were donated to the University of Alabama Library in 1950 by Basil Manly, the grandson, of Washington, D. C. Regrettably, Mr. Manly, the donor, died shortly after making the

years he kept an almost daily account of his affairs, laboriously penning page after page of details in a fine, neat hand. Besides current events and University business he recorded births, deaths, baptisms, family affairs and countless other matters, even to such small entries as that of February 28, 1844, when he paid for his son's visit to a barber: "Charles's hair 25." His comments for the years 1837-1855 and 1859-1865 are particularly fruitful for students of Alabama history—the former for University coverage and the latter because of the author's intense interest in the political welfare of the South. An ardent secessionist, on February 22, 1861 Manly served as chaplain at the inauguration of Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederate States of America, riding in the presidential party and offering the inaugural prayer.

That portion of Manly's last diary which is recorded below begins with his resignation as pastor of Wentworth Street Baptist Church, December 11-13, 1858, and ends with the entry of March 14, 1867, at which time he left Tuscaloosa for the last time.⁶ Needless to say, the record covers an era of intense conflict in Alabama as well as in other Southern states. Within these pages the slow but inexorable course that led through secession to war and through war's bewildering aftermath to final peace is sharply but skillfully depicted by a man of God, a gentleman who, hating war, preferred it to appeasement or submission. Manly's shrewd observations on men and affairs form a most instructive and entertaining commentary on the Alabama of a century ago.

gift, but his wife, Marie B. Manly, fulfilled his wishes by forwarding the manuscripts to the University Library. The five letter-books cover the years 1825-1833, 1826-1844 (account and records), 1834-1846, 1847-1857, 1857-1867 and the diaries the years 1843-1848 and 1848-1855. There are also two small booklets for 1842-1843, entitled "Red Book" and "Blue Book."

⁶ A few entries, such as the mention of funerals or christenings conducted by Dr. Manly or of certain purely personal or family affairs deemed historically unimportant by the editor, have been omitted from the present account.

Sat. eve. Dec. 11 [1858]. I sent for the Deacons who are in town to my study. Brethren, R. Brodie, Wm. B. Heriot, Jos. Lealy, & John G. Milnor came. To these I stated that I have come to the conclusion, after the further experiment of a year, that it is my duty to leave here. While all the difficulties before mentioned remain,—it is now apparent that the more active & able of the congregation & church are to be absent every Summer; leaving but a few, & those inactive & dispirited. The fact is also plain that, while nothing can be done here, a resident minister cannot go out & return with safety, in Summer. Then, in Winter, people are too busy to give heed to anything, with a quick and thoughtful mind, except business. It costs them, & it costs me, with too little of benefit to any,—too much, to justify my stay. I therefore intimated my purpose to resign—to take effect as soon as they c^d. make other arrangements.—

The brethren said but little—seemed much to regret it; though all that was said was by Br.ⁿ Brodie and Lealy. I told them that I had considered every argument, pro & con, that had occurred to me; & am not likely to change my mind unless something occurs I had not considered; & that my wish is that the church will consider the matter final, & quietly yield to it. I told them I could not stay beyond the Spring, at furthest;—but would be guided by their wishes, if they choose to express any, as to the time & manner of my resignation.—

So, they departed.—

Charleston, Dec. 13, 1858

To the Wentworth St. Bap. Church

My Brethren,

Again I feel constrained to apprise you that I deem it my duty to change my location & sphere of labor. The views heretofore expressed have lost none of their force after a year's reflection;—I am even more convinced than before that it will be best for the common cause that I go away; while your interests will be as well served, probably better by some other person.

I therefore wish to lay down my office, as Pastor, at your earliest convenience; And, though willing to remain & serve for a reasonable time, if you request it, while you are looking for a successor,—I am convinced that the interests of both parties require the interval to be short.

I know of nothing, that can affect my decision, which I have not considered as well as I am able; And I trust that you will at once quietly prepare for a change.

With ever grateful affection, I am truly Yours

B. Manly.

This letter was presented to the church, at a regular meeting, (Dec. 13 '58) on Monday night. The consideration of it was referred to a special meeting a fortnight hence viz—Dec. 27th and a committee to consist of Milnor, McCreery, Adams, L. P. Smith, Heriot, Brodie, Lealy, were appointed to bring in some report . . .

Mon. Dec. 20. I sent in the following, addressed to the Board of the So. Bap. Pub. Socy.

Brethren, Expecting to change my location soon,—& aware, as I have ever been, that the interests of the Pub. Socy. require a closer & more efficient supervision than I have felt at liberty even to attempt, & especially in the contemplated changes of their business;—I hereby resign my position as a member of the Board. Please to consider my place vacant, forthwith; & accept my best wishes for the prosperity of the Cause you serve.

With Kindest regards, I am truly Yours
B. Manly . . .

Mon. Dec. 27. [1858] Set out for Ala. in order to consult the divine leadings, by personal converse with brethren & examination on the ground, in regard to my removal to Ala. & my future employment there. I visited Tuskegee, Montgomery, Lowndes Co, Selma, Marion, Tuskaloosa; & spent 3 Sabbaths away;—reaching home Tues. eve. Janv. 18 '59. I am more fixed in my conviction of duty to remove.—With the blessing of God, I shall go to Ala. & for the present, settle in Tuskaloosa. I expect to engage in that state mission to which brethren have invited me.—I have made conditional arrangements for renting the dwelling of Mrs. Ann G. Slade, at \$200. a year. There are some articles of furniture standing in the house, the use of which I am to have, in consideration of certain repairs to the premises, which at my option & convenience I may do.—But, in case the Bap. Ch. there should procure a pastor's dwelling & Charles [Manly] becomes the pastor (as the Church invite & wish him to do) then Mrs. Slade agrees to release me from the obligation to take her house. God has mercifully preserved & prospered me on this journey—for which I desire ever to be thankful.—I am now, with all convenient dispatch, to prepare for moving.—Sorrowful work!—

The Lord be my guide & stay!

While lying awake at Dr. [Burwell B.] Rudulph's, Hayneville, Lowndes Co. Ala. after making a journey in Robinsons' hack, from Letohatchie

(on the Florida R. R.) I conceived the following—which I gave to Sarah M. Clemonts, my niece, to copy & send to the Hayneville Chronicle for publication;—charging Sarah to conceal the authorship.—

“To The Citizens of Hayneville, Ala.

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If you go to Letohatchie
Be sure the “*bad place*” do not catch ye
For swearin’ & cussin’, & such sort of talk
And rearin’ & fussin’, whenever you balk.

The road is so fixed, you’ll despise it;
In trying to mend, they have spliced it,—
Two roads, hard & soft, are put together, as well as they
could;
The one two feet below the other, & ne’er a one good.—

Not peddler, nor preacher, nor poet,
Not Robinson’s Joe* can now go it
The Road is not passable
Not even Jack-ass-able
And all the good people should know it.
Viator

*The Hack-driver.—

Sat. eve. Jan. 22 [1859] Rec^d. a visit from my son Basil (of Richmond)—He is on his way to Ala—to look after his interests there—especially in Gainesville, with John A. Minniece.

He expects to depart, again, on Mon morn 24th . . .

Mar. 10. Shipped on board the steamer, James Adger, 36 packages of books, furniture & goods for N. Y. city—to be then transhipped to Mobile, for Tuskaloosa—care of Tho^s. Lesesne

The vessel sailed on Sat. Mar. 12. Five packages were afterwards sent by Rail Road.—weighing, 180, 210, 320, 140, 150 = in all 1000 lbs.

. . .

Mon. Apl. 4. Wife started to Richmond Va. carrying Julia & her child Robert. I went with them as far as to Wilmington N. C.—& returned to Charleston next aftⁿ. . .

[May 23] Between [May 1-May 22], I had made a journey to Richmond, & attended the So. Bap. Convention. Returning, wife & I

visited my brother's family, Hon^{ble}. M. E. Manly, Newbern, N. C. also my brother & family Hon. Charles Manly, Raleigh. Bro. Mat. was riding the mountain circuits, as Judge,—& we did not see him.—

Wife & I left Charleston, Tuesday, May 24—Next evening, she went to Hayneville, thence to Ash-Creek where she spent some days with her mother. James & Fuller [Manly's sons] had been there two or three months. Charles came by way of Robertsville, & joined his mother in a few days. Accompanied by two servants, Levi & Martha, & the little dog Belle, I proceeded down the River to Selma, thence by R.R. to Marion. On thurs. noon, the servants started in a hack that had been sent down from Tuskaloosa,—arriving in Tuskaloosa the evening of Friday May 27. I arrived, by stage, on Sat. morn. May 28—stopped at M^{rs}. Gould's.

Sat. May 28 attended discussions of Tusk^a. Union, in Bap. Ch. Preached there—Sund. May 29.

June 5 attended dedication of Bap. meeting House at Montevallo, Shelby Co. & preached. Washington Wilkes is Pastor. There I saw Rev. Noah Haggard—& Rev. Tho^s. Meroney.—

Met my wife & sons at Randolph—tues. June 7.—we all arrived in Tusk^a. Wed. June 8—Stopped first at M^{rs}. Pratt's . . .

On Sunday June 19. my son, Charles, was ordained, & took the pastoral charge of the Bap. Church in Tuskaloosa—A. J. Battle acted as Chairman, John C. Foster as Sec of the Presbytery. I preached the Sermon, Ps. 68. 18, John C. Foster made prayer. Reuben Dodson gave the charge. Joshua H. Foster was present in the examinations on Saturday—& concurring but he was sick on Sunday, & not able to attend . . .

July 15 to 17—at Clinton, Grave Co. Ordination of Nathan Carpenter, Deacon Communion season, for the church.— July 19-21 at Marion—Convention of Teachers—Humbug. July 23, 24 at Tuskegee—preached Mond. July 25—entered on the week of missionary meetings—Mon. at Ebenezer Tues. Cubihatchie, Wed at Antioch, M^t. Meigs, Thurs & Frid. at Wetumpka Sat & Sunday at Montgomery.—Part of the time, Bro. Henderson & others took another route,—meeting us at

Wetumpka. Aug 1. To Tuskegee, Chunnenuggee, Mt. Lion, & Union Springs—Aug. 9—back to Tuskegee Wed. Aug. 10 to Montgomery—attended S. Sch. meeting. Sun. Aug. 14—at Montgomery, preached Mon. Aug. 15—at Hayneville—Ash-Creek, &c—Marion, Frid 19. Home 20th. Spent 2 Sundays in Tusk. 21st. & 28th Aug.—Sept. 1—Started to Talladega—preached 4-to-8th Sept 10-16 at Town of Talladega. Sept 17-20 Coosa River Assoⁿ. at Antioch Ch. near Silver Run P.O. Sept. 24-27 Liberty Assoⁿ. Fridonia, Chambers co. Preached at Mill-Town, 23rd. Sept. 27-28 at LaFayette—Waid Hills'— Oct. 1-4 at Central Assoⁿ. Weogufka—crossed Tallapoosa at Russell's ferry Oct. 5 at Gov. Ben Fitzpatrick's Oct 6—at Prattville Oct 7 at Mother's, Ash creek Oct. 8 at Ala. Assoⁿ. Pleasant Hill, Dallas co. Sermon on communion 9th.⁷

Oct. 10 At Ash Creek—replied to Dr. B. Egan declining to accept of Presidency of Mount Lebanon University, La.—wife met me at Ash Creek—came down on a sudden call to see her mother who was very ill . . .

Basil was created D.D. both by the Univ. of Ala & the Richmond college, at their commencements, severally, this summer.—

Basil & his family removed from Richmond to Greenville S. C. about Sept. 1st.

This has been an eventful year to my family, indeed!

Frid. Nov. 4—Arrived at our house in Tusk^a, my venerable old Mother, A. Rudolph Sister E. Y. Peay—& Dr. Burwell B. Rudolph. Mother has stood the journey exceedingly well. Mother & sister will probably stay with us some time.— . . .

Nov. 7. Mond. I made a bargain with Presley H. Wilkerson to buy his land, adjoining mine on the Warrior—viz 427 acres at \$20. an acre. I have executed two bills of exchange, each for half the amount, payable severally on the first of Feby. 1860, & first of Feby. 1861—both bearing interest from the first of Jan^y. 1860.—Rev. John C. Foster has these bills, & will deliver them to Wilkerson when he presents him the title . . .

⁷ During Dr. Manly's term as missionary he travelled widely over the state, preaching at various churches as is here indicated. This tour of July 15-October 9, 1859 is illustrative of his itineraries.

Frid. Dec. 16 This day agreed with Wm. B. Elliott to attend to my business for another year, at the plantation. For finishing up this year, say—since the 1st of Dec. to Jan. 1st, I am to pay him \$30. For the year 1860, I am to pay him \$450. or in that proportion, if he should leave before the close of the year. He is to have his food & lodging; & to be allowed to keep his mare without being charged for it . . .

Sat. Dec. 31 [1859]. A remarkable freshet is now prevailing on the Warrior;—61 feet above low-water mark, at the bridge.

[January 2, 1860] It is very cold, withal; Therm. at sunrise, within the house, stood at 20°, on the north portico it ran down to 11°, on Monday morn. Jan^y. 2nd. Considerable snow fell on Saturday morn. Toward night, it grew much colder; & has been growing colder, since. Much damage is apprehended, from high water, on the river.

Tues. Jan. 3. James & Fuller (with Maurice Garland) came up from the plantation today. They report the water [*sic*] than any freshet that has occurred since I owned the place; about a foot, or a little more.— The water came up to the top of the lowest step of the dwelling house; & ran in a brisk stream along the lane leading out toward the Post Oak. Yet the place of the well, & the horse-lot & hog-lot were not covered by the water. James & Fuller rowed their boat all the way up to the cotton shed at the Ferry, along the road we usually travel. In one or two places, they had to get out & draw it over the land a few feet. As yet, I do not know the extent of damage I may have suffered. Thank God! Life is preserved.

Sund. Jan. 1. Preached in Bap. Ch. Tusk. by request of son Charles—on New Year's day.—Text, Ps. 31. 15 "My times are in thy hand."—Too cold weather, for people to turn out in considerable numbers. Those that were there, seemed attentive . . .

Friday, Jan. 6. Attended the funeral of William Massey, born Jan^y. 11. 1834—nearly 26 years of age. He was shot in the breast, on Mond. Dec. 26th./59 with a pistol, by Peter Martin, son of the late Gov Joshua L. Martin. The boy was in a drunken mania, & Massey was only trying to restrain him from violence to one or another—acting as deputy Marshal. The ball (slug) struck the breast bone, glanced round on the left side, fractured a rib, which caused bleeding internally.

The ball stopped near the skin under the left arm, & was not extracted while the patient lived. He was a good son, a member of our church—the most promising & valuable out of 3 sons of a *poor* old widow. Her husband was killed years ago, by the falling of a bucket upon him while he was in a well. Martin was sobered by the act, at the time; & has made his escape. He was first seized by a man named Steins,—but rescued & set at liberty by two men—said to be W^m. Harris, & Ed. Comegys. These are his companions in drink. Buried by “*odd fellows*”

Thus are two families (widowed mothers) burdened with a new distress, for life!—

Sat. Jan. 7. Attended the funeral of Henry B. Snow, son of our valued old merch—Henry A. Snow. Poor Henry has lived a wild life, much of his time. At last, *Consumption* took him; & his race was short. Service in the house, & at the grave: Pallbearers, O. T. Prince, Tho^s. H. Ralph, Wm. H. Fitts, W^m. S. Foster, John Cobbs, & Jo. C. Guild. Rev. Mr. Nevius, Rector. He was 29 years of age.

Sat. Jan^y. 7. Planted out in the *front yard* of the parsonage house where we reside four small peach trees, of the kind known as *Pace's* peach. They were taken from the ground in the early part of November last, in LaFayette, Chambers co. Ala by Bro. Waid Hill—brought to Montgomery at the time of the Fair; from which time I have kept them,—having no opportunity to plant them till now. The roots had no covering except a piece of old blanket wrapped & tied around. I doubt if they will live.—I have had them at home nearly a month. Yet the ground has been *frozen* all the time, untill today . . .

Thurs. Jan^y. 12 finished sowing about 6 bushels of wheat at Wilkerson place: It is a *venture*. We borrowed from Wilkerson cotton seed enough to spread on the land before sowing; & he is to receive as much in turn from my pile at the Post Oak . . .

Jan^y. 17. This day, Benj. F. Eddins gave me money to buy the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 33, L 21, Range 10 W 80 acres—of Charles M. Foster. I bought the land with Eddins's money, & for him; & am now to make him a title. There were private reasons why I should be known in the trade with Foster, & not Eddins. The price was \$20. an acre, at 6 month's time. For cash he agreed to take off a sum equal to the in-

terest for six months.—I paid \$1536. The land adjoins some of mine; but I would not pay that sum for it,—just to keep.

Sat. Jan^y. 21. This day I exchanged my curled mule, Nelly, for little Jim Crack, with S. S. Grant giving Grant \$20 to boot. The mule I got is said to be but 5 years old. Nelly has been ruined by overheating & over-work, generally: has the big-head & the big-jaw—& is injured in her limbs & wind. I fear she will be of but little service again Grant sold her to me some years ago and for \$150. & he knows all about her; takes all risks,—&c.—

Sat. Jan^y. 28 I find that there were killed on my place 5221 lbs of Pork; allowing 40 p. ct. for waste, this will make 3132 lbs of bacon. I have on hand 2 barrels of Pork, 400 lbs & about 400 lbs of old bacon = 3932. Allow 72 lbs for each week, 48 weeks = 3456 lbs—the stock of meat laid in ought to serve us this year.—

Sat. Jan^y. 28. I paid the first half of the purchase money for the plantation I bought of Presley H. Wilkerson;—\$4,280—With \$28.53 interest. It adjoins my Walnut Bluff place on the South-east; & the price was \$20. an acre.—Another payment of a like sum, principal, will be due, on the first of Feb^y. 1861, with interest from Jan^y. 1. 1860.

Thurs. Feb. 2. I exchanged a worthless mule, "Lize" with Myers; & took two of his in return. He allowed \$125 for my mule in the trade; rating his at \$385—a brown horse mule, & a light bay mare mule. The horse will be 5 years old this spring, the mare 3. I have 14 mules, now: enough, surely! I had bought one from Elliott, brown, 7 years, \$155; & one from Wilkerson 5 years \$150.

Feb. 10 This day, I paid, in full, for the land bought of Wilkerson—Taking up my bill, due Feb. 1/61 by the payment of principal & one month's interest—viz. \$4308.50. I was enabled to do this by borrowing \$500 from Marion Banks; \$2850. from Miss Charlotte P. Drysdah; \$1100. from M^{rs}. Isabel A. Pratt; & \$50. from Charles Manly. I much preferred to owe on notes, rather than upon a bill of exchange. I have no *bill* out, now.—

Feb. 10. This day, I entered into a written agreement with Thomas J. Hill to purchase that part of fraction D of Fractional secⁿ. 36, L 22,

R11 W, (being the North west corner of said frac'l. section) which will lie north of a continuation of the "mile-line" through fraction D. The quantity thus cut off is supposed to be 17 acres—& the price \$300—12 months' credit without interest. The land is to be measured & lines marked, as soon as it is dry enough to go upon it. If the quantity should vary from our conjecture, the price is to vary in proportion, less or more: In no case is the southern boundary of the land, thus contracted for, to extend south of Tom Hill's road to his "Haw-Ridge" place. The instrument of writing in which all this is covenanted for, and signed by Hill & me, is in the hands. of Rev. John C. Foster,—who will measure & mark the land. With this piece of land added to mine, my southern boundary will be the "mile-line", as far east, as that line was run . . .

March 31. Dr. B. B. Rudulph arrived. On Mon. April 2. Mother and Sister E. Y. Peay departed, for their home in Lowndes County, under his care. Mother has been with us since the 4th. of November.

Tuesday 17. April Dr. M. left for Marion, to aid in a meeting, which was going on there and to meet Charles, who had gone down on last Wed. On Monday, Apl. 30. Charles & I returned from Marion. The meetings were interesting & hopeful. The great day only can reveal the result. Charles & I preached alternately.

May 10. Opened my last crib of corn at the plantation. The cribs were calculated to hold 500 bushels, of slip-shucked corn. I suppose this crop to have been made to look large by having a great proportion of shuck left on the ears. The wants of the place, on the most economical scale, will require 20 bushels a week—say 320 bushels till the last of Aug . . .

Tues. May 15. Dr. Manly & Sarah started for Charleston . . .

Aug. 5. Preached Bap. Ch. Tusk^a. while Charles went to open (dedicate) the new house of worship for the Bap. Ch. called Hopewell—5 miles E. of Tusk^a. on the Huntsville Road.—

Aug. 12. Should have preached at Jemison's mill, a little village called Addison, Tusk^a. Co.—but a great & continuous rain came on, & gave no intermission all day. About the hour at which I might

have started, I was attacked with a serious pain affecting the kidneys & bladder. This was followed by a bilious attack—fever—&c—in bed several days.—

Aug. 21. Tuesday, performed funeral service, (by reading scripture only) for W^m. D. Marrast Esq late Postmaster in Tuska^a. He was about 57 years of age, had been twice married, survived both his wives, left an only daughter Anna Van Hoose Marrast, aged about 18. He was an honest, upright, man,—a faithful public officer, & an ardent friend. His health failed, from long confinement; his sensibilities grew morbid; & his mind gave way. Under these circumstances, some people here, who wished to make money out of him, started a rumor that he had committed a rape on a little girl,—whom he found ragged & suffering & to whom, in his benevolence, he had given shoes & clothing. Though this charge was denied by the girl, & the true perpetrator pointed out, the conspirators kept up annoyance by anonymous letters &c. His morbid condition prevented him from treating this as it deserved to be; &, in a moment of frenzy, before day Mond. morn. he shot himself with his own Gun. The discharge went entirely through his body; & he probably never breathed after it.— He left a will, directed to his executors, Dr. John Marrast, & L. B. Neal. He left a pencil memorandum to his daughter, addressing & advising her affectionately. His accounts with the P. O. department were all straight. &c.

Frid. Sept. 28. Our son, James reached home, in Tuskaloosa, this day. He finished his engagement with his cousin John B. Rudolph of Lowndes co. on monday night Sept. 24, & started for home next morning. He had been there since about the 1-4th of March. His wages were to be at the rate of \$375. from March 1. to end of the year; i.e. at the rate of \$37 1/2 a month. John B. R. assumed to pay James debts down there—viz

for a poney, \$40. with interest from the date of purchase—perhaps June 10 for a coat \$6. got in Hayneville for sundries \$22. or thereabouts, charged in Nichols's bill

John B. Rudolph paid James \$30. in money—

The time he staid, 6 mo. & 2/3, at \$37.50 a month would amount to 250.50 . . .

Oct. 1. My son, R. Fuller Manly, entered the University of the State, as a student, this day. An important era in his life. "The Lord

that fed me all my life long, & preserved me from evil, bless the Lad!" The university, in obedience to a law of the last legislature, is just putting itself into a military organization.

On Mon. Nov. 26. I set out from home, Tuskaloosa, to be present at the opening of a Bap. Ch. in Columbus Ga. at the request of its Pastor, Bro. James H. Devotie; intending to call & spend a Sunday in Montgomery Ala. knowing of their destitution. When I reached Montgomery, I first learned that the Bap. Ch. there had united in a call to me, to become their pastor. They were a part of the constituents of my state mission; & thinking that I c^d. not be drawn away from it, perhaps ought not, they directed their attention to W^m. Williams of Greenville S. C. & to Tib. Grac. Jones of Norfolk. Failing here, they united in a call to me,—under the information received from Bro. R. Holman, Cor. Sec. of Dom. missⁿ. Board of So. Bap. Convention, that I was already considering the propriety of discontinuing, at least suspending, my mission, on acc^t. of the stringency of the money market—& the disturbed condition of the country.—The Deacons and the Comⁿ. waited on me in Montgomery, on Sund. noon, Dec. 2. Their letter was dated 24th nov. & had gone to Tuska^a. while I was going to Montgomery.— After thinking over the matter, & trying to pray for divine direction, I told the brethren that I wd^{.l}. return, providence permitting, & serve them for a time; but would reserve a formal answer to their call, until I should have returned home.—

Now, it appears to me, that duty requires I should accept the pastorate; not without difficulties to be overcome, & trials to be borne. May God assist me, guide me, & sanctify all to me, through Xt, my Lord!

I have returned them the following answer.

Tuskaloosa, Dec. 20. 1860

To W^m. P. Chilton, I. T. Tichenor, Tho^s. H. Watts, B. B. Davis, & Albert Williams. Committe,—&c.

Dear Brethren,

To you, as a Comⁿ. of the Baptist Church of Montgomery, I beg leave to respond. You are aware of the circumstances under which your letter of the 24th of Nov. failed to meet my eye, until within a few days past. Meanwhile, aware of the call of the Church to become their Pastor, I have given to the matter some reflection & prayer; & have used such consultation as seemed fit; and, following, as I trust, the indications of Providence, I conclude to accept your call.

No such step can be taken, especially in a condition such as mine,

without difficulties, trials, & apprehensions. I look to my divine Master to remove, or sanctify, them; & to bear me through them,—acceptably to Him, & usefully to the Church.

If the Lord please, I may be expected to serve the church on Lord's Day, Dec. 30th; and my period of service may be understood as taking date from the first day of January, 1861.—

I am, Dear Brethren, Your serv^t. for Jesus' sake.—
B. Manly.

Tuskaloosa Dec. 20/60

My Dear Brother,

Today, I forward to Montgomery my acceptance of the call of the Bap. church, there. My service in the Mission may be considered as closing, so far as pay is concerned, Nov. 1st. The labor done since, which is just what I would have done, had my mission continued, may be regarded as a contribution to the good cause.

That advance to me, from other funds of the board, of \$500. on the 15th instant,—was an *accommodation* beyond what I can well express. Indeed, in relinquishing my Mission-work, it is impossible for me to utter all I feel in regard to the generous confidence which my brethren have manifested toward me.—

I beg that you will make such private explanations as you think fit, to my honored constituents,—I do not know that any formal or public announcement of my withdrawal need be made. But it seemed to be almost indispensable that, in the beginning to serve the Church in Montgomery, I should be understood by them as taking the *pastoral relation*. My service there will date from the 1st of Jan^y. next. I expect to go over next week.—There are yet due to me, on account of service in the Mission up to Nov. 1. /60, four hundred and forty five (\$445) dollars. If this can be procured from some of the constituents, and paid to me, in any reasonable time; it will relieve some of the losses incident to my movements, and be a happy close of what has been to me an honored & delightful connexion.

Continue to me, my brother, the benefit of your valuable counsel; and may God ever bless you, & yours!

Affectionately

B. Manly

The Rev. R. Holman

Cor. Sec. Dom. Missⁿ. Board of So. Bap. Con.

On monday Dec. 24th [1860] I left home, (in company with Judge Shorter, of Eufaula) for Montgomery. The journey was prospered. I reached M. on Wed. eve. Dec. 26; & found a welcome in temporary lodgings at Bro. W. W. Waller's.—The Ladies in the church covered the floor of my study, basement of the Ch. with a cocoa-mat & a carpet & rug. Other furniture I found there, as follows—1 pr. of andirons, shovel & tongs, 1 Lounge, 1 Mahog. cushioned arm chair, 1 Oaked

Washstand, 1 split bottom arm chair, 1 circular oak-painted table, 1 oak-painted desk, 3 oaked wooden arm-chairs. The church had a drop put to the Gas fixture in the room; & I am to use the gas without cost to me.—I purchase, a fender, 3 bolts for doors inside, a hatchett, a hand-bellows, 6 hat-hooks, foot-scraper, looking glass, 1 broom

On Thurs. Jan^y. 3 [1861]. I began to board with M^{rs}. John H. Murphy. She furnishes a room for my wife & myself, and meals. We furnish our fuel, lights, the covering of our bed, toweling, a carpet & rug for the floor. I find, in the room, a high-post bedstead, a bureau, 5 chairs, 1 arm-chair, 1 rocking chair, 1 small table, 2 spittoons, 1 p^r-andirons (brass), mattresses, bed, bolster & 2 pillows.

In the dressing room, 1 large wardrobe (a fixture), 1 set of shelyes (moveable), 1 wash-stand, 1 pitcher & basin, 1 water urn, 1 tooth brush dish, 1 soap-dish, 1 drinking glass with handle,—oil cloth on the floor. Beside our baggage, clothing, &c. we furnish to the room, carpet & rug, 1 porcelain candlestick, 1 covered chamber-vessel, 1 hand bellows, tin water-bucket, tin foot tub, tongs & shovel. (Mrs. John Martin, & her daughter Mrs. Phillips, had the carpet made & put down.) 1 porcelain-lined saucepan, 1 towel stand.—

Our carpet was selected, made & put down, by our sisters, Mrs. Martin & her daughter Mrs. Phillips.—Until Mrs. Manly comes, Mrs. W. W. Waller furnishes, temporarily, towels, bed-covering & pillows. We shall supply our own, in due time, & return hers.—

Before deciding on any change of relations or residence, I had given leave, reluctantly, to some of my friends in Tuskaloosa county, to propound my name [as a Secession candidate] for a seat in the Convention of the people of this State—to meet Jan^y. 7. The papers which relate to this matter are preserved. I refused to *canvass, in any way*; & the other nominee, A. S. Nicolson Esq., was not skilled in the arts and tactics of the stump. The result was much affected by demagogical arts & arguments. Jemison & W^m. R. Smith are elected, I learn; and I have nothing, *personally*, to regret, in the matter.—It is a relief to me to escape the responsibility of deciding for the people in this very serious emergency. (The vote, Charles writes, was Jemison 1270, Smith 1169, Manly 718, Nicolson 616.)⁸

⁸ The figures are correct, according to Lewy Dorman, *Party Politics in Alabama from 1850 through 1860* (Wetumpka, 1935), p. 195. Jemison was a "Cooperationist."

Frid. Jan. 11. /61 The convention came to a vote this day, on the ordinance of Secession—& passed it by a majority of 22.—vote stood 61 to 39. The signing will be delayed for a day or two, to give time to some of the delegates to consult their constituents—whether to sign it, or not. Judge Dargan of Mobile, I learn, wrote the ordinance—It is as follows

“An Ordinance to dissolve the Union between the state of Alabama, & other states, united under the compact styled “The United States of America”.

Whereas the election of Abraham Lincoln & Hannibal Hamlin to the offices of President and Vice President of the United States of America by a sectional party, avowedly hostile to the domestic Institutions & to the peace & security of the people of the State of Alabama, following upon the heels of many & dangerous infractions of the Constitution of the United States by many of the States & people of the northern section, is a political wrong of so insulting & menacing a character as to justify the people of the State of Alabama in the adoption of prompt & decided measures for their future peace & security:—*Therefore, Be it declared & ordained by the people of the State of Alabama, in Convention assembled, That the State of Alabama now withdraws, and is hereby withdrawn from the Union, known as “the United States of America,” and henceforth ceases to be one of said United States, and is, and of right ought to be a sovereign and independent State.*

Sec. 2. *And be it further declared and ordained by the people of the State Alabama [sic] in Convention assembled, That all the powers over the Territory of said State, and over the people thereof, heretofore delegated to the Government of the United States of America, be and they are hereby withdrawn from said Government, and are hereby resumed and vested in the people of the State of Alabama.*

And as it is the desire and purpose of the people of Alabama to meet the slaveholding States of the South, who may approve such purpose, in order to frame a provisional as well as permanent Government upon the principles of the Constitution of the United States.

Be it also Resolved by the people of Alabama in Convention assembled, That the people of the States of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, be and are hereby invited to meet the people of the State of Alabama by their Delegates, in Convention, on the 4th day of February, A. D.,

1861, at the City of Montgomery in the State of Alabama, for the purpose of consulting with each other as to the most effectual mode of securing concerted and harmonious action in whatever measures may be deemed most desirable for our common peace and security.

And be it further Resolved, That the President of this Convention, be and is hereby instructed to transmit forthwith a copy of the foregoing preamble, ordinance, and resolutions to the Governors of the several States named in said resolutions.

Done by the people of the State of Alabama, in Convention assembled, at Montgomery, on this the eleventh day of January, A. D., 1861.⁹

A good spirit, it is said, prevailed among those that voted against the ordinance,—promising generally to sustain it before the people, & to use their influence to unite the whole. The signing of the ordinance was delayed for a few days to enable the members wishing to consult their constituents to hear from home whether they should sign it, or not. Immediately, on the passage of the ordinance, the doors of Convention were opened, the citizens rushed in, The President proclaimed the State of Alabama a free & independent commonwealth—& no longer one of the United States of America. A flag, prepared by Ladies of Montgomery, was unfurled, at the suggestion of W. L. Yancey, by men of both South & North Alabama; One hundred Guns were fired, the first being touched off by Miss Raoul of Mt. Meigs & the Second by Chief Justice Walker; All the bells in the city struck up—the Catholic being *first*, & the Baptist *second*;—& the Capitol & many private dwellings were beautifully illuminated, at night. The Governor, Andrew B. Moore, wept; & many venerable men, unused to fervid passions, embraced each other, & wept.—The greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

2	The State of Miss.	passed the ordinance for Secession	on the 9th inst.	Jan'y. 1861
3	The State of Florida	" " " "	" "	on the 11th Jan'y.
5	The State of Georgia	" " " "	" "	19th: Vote 208 to 89
6	The State of Louisiana	" " " "	" "	on the 20th 113 to 17
7	The State of Texas	" " " "	" "	on the 1st of Feby. 116 to 7
1	The State of South Carolina	" " " "	" "	Dec 20. 1860
4	" " Alabama	" " " "	" "	Jan'y. 11. 1861
8	" " Virginia	" " " "	" "	April 17. 1861
9	" " Arkansas	" " " "	" "	May 6. 1861
10	" " North Carolina	" " " "	" "	May 20. "
11	" " Tennessee	" " " "	" "	June 8. "
12	" " Missouri	" " " "	" "	Aug. 12. 1861

⁹ This document, instead of being copied in Manly's hand, was clipped from a current newspaper and pasted in the diary.

Sun. Jan. 13. This aftn. was the funeral of the Prot. Episc. Bishop of Ala. Nicolaş Hamner Cobbs—a native of Virginia, aged about 65 years Bishop Elliott, of Georgia, led in the service, & delivered a well written Eulogy. Twelve clergymen, in their surplices, attended & took part. There was a very crowded assembly present. He died, day before yesterday—just as the ordinance for secession was about being passed. He had expressed some wish not to see the union dissolved, & he did not live to see the act of dissolution, on the part of Alabama . . .

Wed. Jan^y. 16. This evening, about sunset, the “Senator” arrived at our wharf, bringing Mrs. Manly & James; Abby & her little daughter & nurse. It had been arranged that Abby & James sh^d. stay all night; but “there was no room for them at the Inn” (Exchange) & they went on the same evening to Charleston. Wife occupied her chamber, while I went over to the Depot; & seceured their sats. Thus, our family is dispersed. The Lord sanctify to us this dispersion, our present location & business, & all the events of his providence!

Jan^y. 18 By a letter from the overseer, Wm. B. Elliott, I learn that 5375 lbs of pork have been slaughtered at the plantation this year,—lately. Allowing 40 per cent (2088 lbs) for waste, in converting it into bacon, we make this quantity to yield 3441 lbs of bacon. This ought to be enough. There were two barrels of old molasses on hand when I left; & I got 6 more; making 8 barrels for this year’s use. This will save some meat: & the hams & shoulders we can exchange for large fat flitches . . .

Sat. Jan. 19. Having recd. a drft. on Baker & Brother, signed by L. W. Lawler in favor of R. Holman, for \$445 in full pay for my services up to Nov. 1 ’/60, I have this day taken it to the Southern Insurance office, W. W. Walker, & Joel Riggs—to get them to collect it & invest it for me . . .

Wed. night, Jan^y. 23. This evening, about 9 o’clock, the Ala. corps of Cadets from the University, arrived from Tuscaloosa, (on the Warrior by the Dellett, & on the Ala. River by the Southern Republic, Capt. Meahy, numbering about 120—under the charge of the President, Col. Huse, Maj. Murfee, & the residue of the military staff. They were lodged in the concert Hall, & took meals at the Montgomery Hall. Our boy, Fuller, is among them, one of the smallest in the group.—

Their appearance on parade is much admired.—They attended our church in a body, on Sund. morn. Jan^y. 26 with their officers—& I addressed them. Text Ps. 144. 11.12

Feb. 4. The Congress of the Seceding States met in Montgomery, to-day; by invitation occupying the Senate chamber. Judge W^m. P. Chilton called the meeting to order, & requested that R. W. Barnwell of S. C. act as temporary chairman. On his taking the seat, he called on me to pray—which I tried to do.—Mr. Lamar, of Georgia was requested to act as temporary Secretary. The delegates were then called by States, & enrolled their names; Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida.—R. B. Rhett, on behalf of the S. C. delegation, nominated Hon. Howell Cobb of Ga. for President; & he was elected by acclamation. Mr. Cobb on taking the chair (He had been conducted to it By Rhett, Judge Richard W. Walker of this State & Owens of Florida) made a brief, neat & pertinent address.—Judge Chilton then nominated Johnson J. Hooper as Sec^y. of the Congress & he was elected by acclamation. The President was then authorized to appoint a door-keeper & messenger; also, on motion of Alex. H. Stephens, the President was requested to appoint a committee of 5, to present rules of the government of the body. The body then adjourned, till tomorrow noon.

Thus, has been inaugurated this important movement.
May the Father of Lights guide the Whole!

Sat. Morn. Feb. 9. Last night, about 11 o'clock, the Congress agreed, unanimously, upon a Constitution for the provisional Government of "*the Confederate States of America*." It is substantially the Constitution of the United States, modified here & there so as to suit the Southern views of the rights of the States. The preamble invokes "the favor of Almighty God." This was inserted, I have no doubt, on a suggestion which came through Pratt & myself.—In the absence of the Meth. Epis. Minister, *Heard*, whose turn it was to open the Congress with Prayer, I was requested to perform that service, & did so. During the forenoon, of Sat. Feb. 9. the Congress elected, unanimously, voting by states, Jefferson Davis, of Miss. President—& Alexander H. Stephens, of Ga. Vice-President, of this Provisional Government of these Confederate States of America. Davis is not here. Stephens is a member of the Congress;—inaugurated Mond Feb. 11th.

Mond. Feb^y. 11. This day the V. P. elect. Stephens, was inaugurated. He made only a very few remarks, leaving it to the President, Davis, to state the principles & policy of the Administration . . .

Frid. Feb. 15. Funeral of Dr. John McLester, aged about 50. Years ago, he had been the partner of Dr. Ames. Tatterby, he had changed his residence often—traveled much. He is said to have been skilful as a Surgeon—and rather unusually well read in his profession. Never married, not religious: died of pneumonia. A nephew & niece of the name of Sanders live here, & were present at his funeral. Job.14. 10 Quite a number of respectable people were at the funeral.—

Sund. Feb. 17. Exchanged with the Pres. Minister—Dr. G. H. W. Petrie—preached from Ps. 37. 16 "A little that a righteous man hath, &c." Petrie preached from 1 pet. 5.7. "Casting all your care on Him; for He careth for You."—

Mon. Feb. 18. This day, the inauguration of the President, Jefferson Davis, took place: he standing on the steps of the Capitol. I was selected by the Com^{te}. of arrangements to serve as Chaplain. Henry W. Hilliard tried to push Lovick Pierce, a Methodist, into that place. But he was against the Secession movement, as long as he could be; & the committee were unwilling to have me superseded. I rode in a coach drawn by six gray horses, in company with the President & Vice President—and Capt. Jones, our military escort.—For the order of procession, see extracts from papers.—The ceremonies were prefaced by prayer; as follows: "O Thou great Spirit! Maker & Lord of all things! Who humblest thyself to behold the things that are done on earth; & before whom the splendor of human pageantry varnisheth into nothing! By Thee Rulers bear sway: Thou teachest senators wisdom. We own thy kind providence, Thy fatherly care, in the peaceful origin of the government of these "Confederate States of America." We thank thee for the quiet considerate unanimity which has prevailed in our public councils; and for the hallowed auspices under which the government of our choice begins. Let thy special blessing rest on the engagements & issues of this day. Thou hast provided us a man to go in & out before us, & to lead thy people. Oh vouchsafe thy blessing, on this thy servant! Let his life & health be precious in thy sight. Grant him a sound mind in a sound body. Let all his acts be done in thy fear, under thy guidance, with a single eye to thy glory; & crown them all

with thy approbation & blessing! With the like favors, bless the Congress of the "Confederate States"; and all who are, or may be, charged by lawful authority with public cares & labors. Put thy good Spirit into our whole people,—that they may faithfully do all thy fatherly pleasure. Let the administration of this government be the reign of truth & peace; let righteousness, which exalteth a nation, be the stability of our times,—& keep us from Sin, which is a reproach to any people; establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; turn the counsel of our enemies into foolishness; & grant us assured and continual peace in all our borders; We ask all, through Jesus Xt our Lord: Amen."

Hon^{ble}. Howell Cobb, President of Congress, administered the oath of office: the President laying his left hand on the table, & reverently holding up his right hand. At the close of the oath, the President *audibly repeated* the concluding words—"So, help me, God!"

The day was pleasant, & the pageant was very fine. I believe it was the largest crowd I ever saw together. May the blessing of God rest on this government of the Confederate States!

Tues Feb. 19. I was called over to Columbus Ga. to attend the funeral of the remains of Rev. N. L. DeVotie, of Selma. He had accompanied the volunteers from Selma to Fort Morgan, as chaplain: & on Tues. night Feb. 12, he was drowned from the wharf, (probably by some mis-step in the dark) without being seen to fall. His body was recovered on the Sat. following—in the surf, a mile from the fort: It was brought to Columbus, under the care of a detachment from each of six companies.—

The funeral was very numerously attended in Columbus; & very great sympathy manifested for the afflicted parents. Very few have had such a son to lose. My text was Judg. 8. 13.—I returned on Thurs. Feb. 21 . . .

Sat. Mar. 30. Last night, about 11 o'clock, wife & I returned to our lodgings, from an absence of nearly 3 weeks. Bro. Henderson preached for me on the 3rd Sunday, & our Son Charles on the 4th. I went to Tuskaloosa, & wife to Lowndes. Both met in Lowndes, with Charles; & Spent a day together there. Thus we are distributed to our work. My immediate call to Tuskaloosa was to meet the Trustees of the Ala. Hospital for the Insane of which body I am a member.

Frid. April 5. This day, Bro. A. B. Cabaniss called to see me. He was prevented from lecturing last night, by the non-arrival of the train, yesterday. He is to lecture this evening; & to preach all day on Sunday—also to have several lectures the next week.—Cabaniss has been to China, some 9 years; returned in ill health, last year. Now, he is well again & is lecturing on China, as a means of paying his expenses; instead of depending on the Board of Missions. Our church gave him \$100. & his lectures were made free. He departed on frid. morn. for Columbus Ga. Apl. 12.

On frid. morn. Apl. 12 at 4 1/2 in the morning, the bombardment of Fort Sumter was begun by the troops at Charleston Harbor. The first guns were fired from Fort Johnson. At 2 o'clock, next day, Sat. Apl. 13. the U. S. flag was hauled down & a white flag run up. On our people visiting the Fort, Maj. Anderson surrendered, unconditionally.—The barracks &c in the Fort were on fire; in consequences of exploding shells falling into the Fort. *No one was hurt, on either side.* Anderson, in retiring was permitted to salute his flag.

Mon. Apl. 15. This afternoon, Bro. T. J. Bowen, once a missionary to Africa, & lately to Brazil, called to see me. He is in poor health; but right energetic & active still. He is on his way to Pensacola,—to see if he can be useful to our men in that region. We hear that Fort Pickens was re-inforced, with 1200. men—on friday night—this is the full complement of men. Bro. Bowen will leave, for Pensacola, early tomorrow morning.—Col. Huse, a skillful artillery officer, commandant of the University of Ala. has just gone down to *Pensacola*; under orders of the Government.

April 17. Wednesday. This day, we changed our place of boarding from Mrs. Murphy's, to Bro. Wm. P. Vanderveer's. We find it to be better to be among our own people. There were discomforts, too, at our former place that we did not see good reason to bear. I have not been able to get Vanderveer to name his terms: only that he will receive pay,—but no more than to pay expenses.

(To Be Continued)

Book Reviews

Confederate Leaders in the New South. By William B. Hesseltine. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1950. xxii, 146 pp. \$2.50.

What happened to the Confederate leaders after the Civil War? Professor Hesseltine undertakes to answer this hitherto largely unanswered question by studying the postwar careers of 656 prominent men. It seems to have been assumed that most of them, in the fashion of Ashley Wilkes, took their seats under the magnolia—or more probably the chinaberry tree—where they devoted the remainder of their lives to moping over the past and wondering what would have been their fate had Stonewall Jackson lived. The author of *Confederate Leaders in the New South* finds, on the contrary, that only a very small portion of the leaders succumbed to defeat. "Only a handful of the leading Confederates failed to make their mark in the postwar years," he observes. Of the 656 men whose careers he traced through the postwar years, "only seventy-one failed to recover a substantial portion of the position and prestige they had enjoyed at the Confederacy's peak." Most of the seventy-one either failed to reenter public life or died soon after the war had ended. An examination of the remaining 585 reveals the fact that the men who led the South during the war "were still, after Appomattox, the leaders." After the war, 292 of the 304 trained lawyers in the group followed the legal profession as their principal occupation, although many of them held political offices during the period following Reconstruction. At one time or another 134 were planters, sixty-six schools teachers, thirty-nine editors, twenty-seven clergymen, six doctors, twenty-three bankers, seventy-three railroad officials and employees, thirty-four industrialists, and thirty-nine were merchants. The Southern people elected local, state, and Federal officers from the several occupational groups mentioned above, but the military leaders, especially the brigadiers—many of whom were under forty at the end of the war and were trained in the law—furnished the greater portion from 1875 to about 1890. So numerous were the brigadiers in Congress (forty-five representatives and twenty-eight senators at one time) that the entire Southern delegation was referred to in the North as the "Rebel Brigadiers."

Professor Hesseltine finds that, although the Confederate leaders, almost without exception, gave verbal adherence to ancient Southern principles, a large number, perhaps a majority, stowed the past away as a romantic memory and sought a different life in the future. These were the New South leaders, who strove to lay the foundations of an industrialized modern region. The author selects General Robert E. Lee as the prototype of the New South advocate because of Lee's modern and practical educational program, partially instituted at Washington College. One might doubt that Lee is the best example, for he did not survive the Civil War long enough to get his bearings and see the full implication of Reconstruction. On the contrary, there is considerable evidence that Lee was reserving freedom of action and judgment on the course of events. It has never been explained, to be specific, why, though applying for pardon, Lee refused as long as he lived to take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Could it have been that, holding such reservations as he did, he could not stultify himself and the principles for which he had stood to become the liveried chauffeur and horseholder of Northern industrialists? For this is the essence, or so it seems to this reviewer, of the author's characterization of the New South leaders. (Perhaps Hesseltine unconsciously over-emphasized the extent to which the New South leaders went in turning their backs upon their old principles and accepting those of the conquerors.)

The author selects Jefferson Davis as the best example of those leaders who fixed their eyes upon the principles of the past rather than upon the future. This role was forced upon Davis, of course; but with his deeply-fixed option it is more than probable that the Confederate President would have continued of the "same opinion still" had he not been persecuted and unfortunately made into a martyr.

Whether or not the two Confederate leaders selected as typical of the Old and the New South principles are the best examples is unimportant: the old Confederate leaders were divided in their emphasis on the old way of life and the new—some were very sharply at variance with one another. However, the majority of them seem to have struck a middle ground in their actions if not in their theories. Perhaps there were many New South leaders who would have preferred the old ways and the old principles, but they were faced with the choice between conditions and theory.

Professor Hesseltine has made important contributions to history

in this study. His book will rank as one of the better publications in the series of "The Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History."

FRANK L. OWSLEY
University of Alabama

The Gallant Hood. By John P. Dyer. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1950. 383 pp. \$3.50.

Until recently historians have usually thought of General John Bell Hood (1831-1879) as only a reckless fighter, devoid of any military talent beyond that necessary to command a relatively small body of men on the battlefield. However, such specialists as Douglas Southall Freeman and T. R. Hay have recently revealed that Hood was one of the best brigade and division commanders in the Confederate Army. Military historians have given Hood short shrift as an army commander, however; he was a failure, they concluded. Perhaps for this reason no one had written a serious biographical study of General Hood until John P. Dyer, author of *The Gallant Hood*, undertook the task. Dyer devotes some space to the early life of his subject and to the fourteen years of his life after the Civil War, but his book is primarily concerned with Hood's military career. From Gaines's Mill, through Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Chickamauga, the author traces the career of General Hood, skillfully fitting the brigade and division commander into his place in the larger military picture—a difficult performance. Hood is always where he should be in battle, so that the reader inevitably concludes that the General was not a simple, brave fighter who merely rode at the head of his troops into battle. Instead, he was an officer of exceptional tactical ability.

Dyer emphasizes a serious defect in Hood's generalship, however, which became increasingly apparent as his command grew from a brigade to a division, to a corps, and then to the Army of Tennessee: he was careless of detail, a poor administrator. Off the battlefield he was easy-going and even lazy. This was a vital factor in his failure as commander of the Army of Tennessee.

Through his friendship with the Chestnuts and Prestons, Hood became an intimate of the Davis-Bragg coterie, and there is very little doubt that this relationship eventually won for him his command, a responsibility which led to his undoing. Dyer seems to imply that

there was a bit of conscious intrigue here on Hood's part, and certainly Hood reported to Davis and ignored Joseph E. Johnston on occasions. But Davis was in the habit of going over Johnston's head to deal with his subordinates, and the blame may be his rather than Hood's, when the latter made unfavorable criticism of the Johnston strategy of retreat in the Chattanooga-Atlanta campaign. When Hood succeeded Johnston, he was committed both by inclination and by order of Richmond to take the offensive against a well-equipped force twice his size. The author traces with skill the complex military operations around Atlanta, and one is impressed with Hood's strategic concepts. But one is more impressed with his inability to manage the movements of and coordinate his forces. Perhaps the disparity of the sizes of the Confederate and Federal forces made his defeat inevitable; but he made it even worse by sending Wheeler towards Chattanooga to work on Sherman's line of communication, for he thereby deprived himself of his "eyes." When Hood finally withdrew from Atlanta and cut in between Sherman and Chattanooga, he was again pursuing good strategy—had his army been larger and better equipped. His march back to Tennessee would also have been good strategy for a larger and better equipped army, but under the circumstances the ruinous battles of Franklin and Chattanooga were really inherent in his small and exhausted force rather than in military blunders.

Because of his poor administrative ability Hood might never have been a great independent army commander, but he might have been a much better one had he had longer experience as a corps commander and a well-equipped force nearer the size of the enemy.

It is much easier to estimate Hood as a man than as a general. After the war he revealed the fine traits of character which many of his more distinguished colleagues, such as Beauregard, Longstreet, and Johnston apparently did not have. Despite his attractive personality he refused, like General Lee, to lend his name to any undignified or questionable project for personal gain. "At forty-five," observes the author, Hood "had become a patient, bearded, benevolent patriarch, a man of great integrity and of great sorrows."

Without the slightest trace of hero worship (indeed, one might even say that the author has an allergy for heroes so strong that he avoids casting his subject in that role, even when he deserves it) Dyer has

written a scrupulously accurate, well-balanced military biography in a fine narrative style easy to follow.

FRANK L. OWSLEY
University of Alabama

Southern Legacy. By Hodding Carter. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1950. 186 pp. \$3.00.

In a series of independent essays Hodding Carter supplies his reader with a personalized portrayal of Southern life and attitudes as exemplified in his adopted rural Mississippi community. Therein he makes a contribution to historical literature. Whether his case study is a dependable one is patently debatable, for his interpretations do not apply to the entire South. He excels as a story-teller, and by means of numerous intriguing anecdotes he evidences a keen insight to his sphere of activities. As implied by his title the subject of each essay is explained primarily upon bases of tradition and folkways. His book is also a study in folklore.

Included in the collection are discourses on conceptions and peculiarities so often investigated by students of Southern history. The far-reaching effects of the Civil War are again emphasized. Strict construction of the Bible is mentioned. Maintenance of white supremacy is once more pointed out as a fundamental concern. The one-party system, poor-whites, cotton economy, respect for women, conceptions of personal honor, and the South's position as an economic colony are discussed with varying degrees of fervor. Regional urge for manufacturing and industry is described, although no mention is made that it existed before the Civil War. Interspersed are a few criticisms of the South which ought to be helpful. Undoubtedly Carter possesses a deep and hopeful love for his region.

Southern Legacy glorifies conceptions inherited from the agrarian society of the Old South. Discussed are habits long typical of rural Americans, but barely mentioned is the fact that many old-time traits have more recently been submerged in a less rural society. In previous books, editorials, and speeches Carter has expressed newsworthy liberal economic, political, and social pronouncements concerning the South. On the basis of *Southern Legacy* he would have been a welcomed member of the Phalanx Club, sponsored in the early 1930's by the

Fugitive-Agrarians of Nashville, Tennessee. That Club operated on the premise that Southern liberals and others differ only slightly concerning many of their fundamental thoughts. Carter's latest contribution is another example of the fact that heritage has been a binding influence on many groups of men throughout history, Southerners perhaps no more, no less, than others.

WEYMOUTH T. JORDAN
Florida State University

Physician to the World: The Life of General William C. Gorgas. By John M. Gibson. Durham: Duke University Press, 1950. 315 pp. \$4.50.

In *Physician to the World* John M. Gibson has succeeded in writing an authoritative and interesting account of the life and activities of William Crawford Gorgas. So complete is the story that it even mentions the fact that Dr. Josiah C. Nott, the man who had earlier suggested that insects could transmit yellow fever, was present at Gorgas' birth on October 3, 1854—a rather remarkable coincidence in view of the role which Gorgas was destined later to play in establishing the mosquito theory of yellow fever transmission.

Since young Gorgas' father, Josiah, was an officer in the United States Army, the family was forced to travel around the country and Willie's boyhood was spent in Alabama, Kentucky, Maine, South Carolina and Virginia. His stay in Virginia was occasioned by his father's having cast his lot with the Confederacy as Chief of Ordnance. During this period in Richmond young Willie got to know many leaders of the Confederacy, including President Jefferson Davis and several generals. No doubt, his acquaintance with these high ranking officers stimulated a desire in the boy to become a soldier.

In 1868 Willie's father became headmaster of the junior department of the University of the South. Willie himself entered that preparatory school in 1869 and received the A.B. degree in 1875. Failing to obtain an appointment to West Point, he began the study of medicine and in 1879 received the M.D. degree from Bellevue. Following an internship at Bellevue Hospital, he entered the Army's Medical Department in June, 1880.

With the occupation of Havana by the United States Army in 1898, Major Gorgas was named Sanitary Officer of the city. He cooperated with the Walter Reed Commission which proved that yellow fever

was transmitted by *Stegomyia* mosquito, renamed the *Aedes aegypti*. Gorgas' sanitary methods were responsible not only for a successful campaign against this mosquito, but also against *Anopheles*, responsible for transmitting malaria. As a result, Cuba's capital became a healthy, prosperous city.

Gorgas was not a member of the first Panama Canal Commission which was to start the construction of the canal in 1904, but instead he became the Chief Sanitary Officer. However, about four years later and after many setbacks, due to poorly informed commission members, he was made a member of the commission. In 1914 the canal was completed and President William Howard Taft stated that the nation owed the structure of the Panama Canal largely to Gorgas' medical teachings and practices. Gorgas' conquest of yellow fever overshadowed his brilliant work in the curbing of other diseases, especially malaria and pneumonia.

On April 6, 1914 Gorgas assumed the duties of Surgeon General of the Army. He had been elected president of the American Medical Association in 1908 and president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine in 1909.

After being retired from the Army in 1918, Dr. Gorgas continued his active interest in medicine and sailed for Belgium in May, 1920 to attend the International Hygiene Congress, where he was to receive the Harbin gold medal. King Albert conferred upon him the order of the Star of Belgium and during Gorgas' stay in Brussels, he had occasion to discuss his proposed West African yellow fever expedition. Gorgas returned to London and had a slight paralytic stroke, from which he did not recover. During his illness King George conferred on him the insigne of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. Gorgas died on July 4, 1920. His Majesty the King commanded that he be accorded a military funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral and a second funeral was held at the Church of the Epiphany. Burial was in Arlington National Cemetery.

Readers throughout the world, and especially Alabamians, will long be indebted to John M. Gibson for this interesting biography of William Crawford Gorgas.

EMMETT B. CARMICHAEL .
The Medical College of Alabama

News and Notices

The Alabama Historical Association
Fourth Annual Meeting
Auburn, Alabama, Friday-Saturday, April 6-7, 1951

PROGRAM

Friday, April 6

- 6:00 Registration Begins—Duncan Hall, Agricultural Campus.
7:30 Evening Session—Dr. John Caldwell, President, Alabama College, presiding—Duncan Hall.
Welcome: Dr. Ralph Draughon, President, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.
Response: Dean A. B. Moore, University of Alabama, President, Alabama Historical Association.
County Agricultural Societies in Alabama to 1860—Dr. W. T. Jordan, Florida State University, Tallahassee.
A Half Century of Science on Alabama Farms—P. O. Davis and M. J. Funchess, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Saturday, April 7

- 8:00 Registration Begins—Duncan Hall, Agricultural Campus.
10:00 General Assembly—Dean A. B. Moore, President of the Association, presiding—Duncan Hall.
10:15 Morning Session (1)—Jack Coley, Dadeville, presiding—Duncan Hall.
Penicaut, As Alabama's First Literary Figure—R. G. McWilliams, Birmingham-Southern College.
"Henry Hitchcock" or "Harry Toulmin"—William Brantley, Birmingham.
10:15 Morning Session (2)—Jack Nelms, Selma, presiding—Ross Auditorium.
Development Pattern of North Alabama Towns Before 1830—Dr. Gordon Chappell, Huntingdon College, Montgomery.
Mrs. A. F. Hopkins and the Alabama Military Hospitals—Miss Lucille Griffith, Alabama College, Montevallo.
10:15 Morning Session (3)—John F. Arnold, Cullman, presiding—Physics Lecture Room.

- Steamboats on the Coosa*—Marvin B. Small, Gadsden.
William Manning Lowe and the Greenback Party in Alabama
 —Miss Frances Roberts, Huntsville High School.
- 12:00 Dedication of Alabama Polytechnic Institute Marker—Hill
 Ferguson, Chairman, Birmingham.
- 1:00 Complimentary Luncheon—Dr. John M. Gallalee, President,
 University of Alabama, presiding—Women's Dining Hall,
 Social Center.
 Invocation—Rev. Thomas F. Cauthen, Auburn.
 President's Annual Address—*Rummaging in Alabama's Back-*
ground—Dean A. B. Moore, University.
 Business Session.
- 3:00 Afternoon Session (1)—Wallace Malone, Dothan, presiding—
 Ross Auditorium.
The De Luna Settlement on Mobile Bay—N. H. Holmes, Mo-
 bile.
- 3:00 Afternoon Session (2)—E. H. Evans, Alabama State Teachers
 College, Florence, presiding—Duncan Hall.
The Alabama Negro Colony in Mexico, 1894-1896—Dr. A. W.
 Reynolds, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Members of the Arrangements Committee for the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Association are: Alfred W. Reynolds, Chairman; Louis O. Brackeen, Assistant Chairman; and Roger W. Allen, Fred Allison, Sam F. Brewster, Katharine C. Cater, Teunison C. Clark, Harry M. Davis, P. O. Davis, Charles W. Edwards, Marion J. Funchess, Michael C. Huntley, Oliver T. Ivey, Sidney W. Johnson, Jack E. Kendrick, Malcolm C. McMillan, Grace G. Mount, David W. Mullins, Robert L. Partain, E. V. Smith, S. L. Toomer, and G. H. Wright.

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Under the supervision of Miss Frances Hails the Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, is preparing a typed check list by counties of all issues and volumes of Alabama newspapers owned by that institution. When completed, the bibliography will be of much value to historians and Miss Hails and Mrs. Mary L. Akin, her co-worker, are to be warmly congratulated for their efforts.

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Professor Weymouth T. Jordan, formerly of Alabama Polytechnic Institute and now of Florida State University, read a paper entitled "Noah B. Cloud's Activities on Behalf of Southern Agriculture" before

the Agricultural History Section of the American Historical Association at its convention in Chicago, December 28-30, 1950.

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The Autumn-Winter, 1950-1951, issue of *The Greater Gulf State*, published by the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, is replete with photographic evidence of that city's growth and importance in Southern industry, economics and culture.

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The November-December issue of *The Social Science Bulletin*, a mimeographed publication of the Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State College, contains an article by Frank L. Owsley of the University of Alabama, entitled "The Success Pattern of the Poor but Ambitious in the Old South."

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Randolph F. Blackford's *Under Seven Flags*, an attractive 76-page booklet on "Talladega and the Heart of the Historic Indian Country," is being sold for the benefit of the building fund of St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Talladega) and St. James Episcopal Church (Alexander City).

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With the last issue Professor Hallie Farmer, Alabama College, Montevallo, and Professor Malcolm Cook McMillan, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, were welcomed as newly-appointed members of the Editorial Board of the *Review*, replacing Professor Leon F. Sensabaugh and Professor Weymouth T. Jordan whose three-year terms expired at the end of the third volume.

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A monument to Johnson Jones Hooper, distinguished humorist and Secretary of the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America, was recently erected in Shockhoe Hill Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. Hooper died June 7, 1862 and his grave has until now remained unmarked. The following men joined the editor of the *Review* in contributing funds for the erection of the monument: Monroe F. Cockrell, 1142 Hinman Avenue, Evanston; Franklin J. Meine, 1422 North LaSalle Street, Chicago; Alfred W. Stern, 231 South LaSalle Street, Chicago; Judge Walter B. Jones, Montgomery; and James F. Sulzby, Jr., Rucker Agee, William H. Brantley, Jr., Allen Rushton, Dr. Seale Harris, Sr., and Dr. George R. Stuart, Birmingham. The complete story with photographs of the erection of this marker appeared in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, January 18, 1951 and was quoted by the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, the *Tuscaloosa News* and

other papers the next day, and by the *Montgomery Advertiser*, January 30.

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Dr. Seale Harris' *Woman's Surgeon: The Life Story of J. Marion Sims*, reviewed in the October, 1950 issue of *The Alabama Review*, was dramatized under the title "Sir Galahad in Manhattan" over the National Broadcasting Company, November 14, 1950.

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William C. Davis, native of Birmingham and a graduate of the University of Alabama, has recently had his *The Last Conquistadores*, an account of the Spanish effort to reconquer parts of South America, published by the University of Georgia Press, Athens. Dr. Davis is a professor of history at that Georgia institution.

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The Graduate School of Alabama Polytechnic Institute has issued a third booklet in the series entitled *Abstracts of Theses, 1948-1949*. A 1948 volume, the second, included the years 1945-1947 and an earlier bulletin, issued in 1946, covered the years 1929-1944. Copies of the publications are available at the office of the Dean of the Graduate School, Auburn.

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Yours Till Death, a collection of Civil War letters of John W. Cotton, was edited by Miss Lucille Griffith and published February 22 by the University of Alabama Press. Selections from the letters were published in the July and October, 1950, issues of *The Alabama Review*.

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A mimeographed bibliography of Alabama newspapers in the University of Alabama libraries has recently been compiled, and a limited number of copies are available for distribution.

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